

# REAGAN 'NOT TO GIVE UP SPACE ARMS'

## World's only hope, says defence chief

PRESIDENT REAGAN "will not give up" his plans for a space defence system despite Mrs Thatcher's success in persuading him to negotiate with Russia before deploying it, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary, said yesterday.

Because the anti-missile system promised to make offensive weapons obsolete, it was, Mr Weinberger said, "the only thing that offers any real hope to the world and we will not give that up."

Tired but triumphant after her six-day world tour, Mrs Thatcher was yesterday settling down to a Christmas rest with her family at Chequers. Whitehall officials view her four-point nuclear agreement with President Reagan as the high point of a year of diplomatic success—including the Hongkong settlement, the EEC budget deal and initial agreement on Gibraltar, says OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF.

It will be 25 to 30 years before the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), as the space system is called, could come into existence, says OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT. Russia's main purpose in publicising SDI is that she lags behind in the anti-satellite field for which there is no arms control treaty.

25 years to "star wars" — P.4

## Weinberger warning

By DAVID SHEARS in Washington

LESS than 24 hours after Mrs Thatcher had agreed to negotiations with Russia before any space defence systems were deployed, Mr Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary, declared yesterday that Mr Reagan "will not give up" such a system.

Mrs Thatcher, speaking at a Press conference after her Saturday morning visit to Camp David outside Washington, had drawn a careful distinction between research and actual deployment.

Noting that she and the president were at odds, she said they had agreed that the current American research into the feasibility of defence against incoming missiles was within the terms of existing agreements.

But she said they had also agreed that if the research led to a decision to proceed with production and deployment, "that has to be a matter of negotiation before these developments could take place."

Yesterday Mr Weinberger said in a television interview that America was certainly willing to discuss such a defence system with the Russians.

### Technical problems

'can be solved'

But he added: "The president has said he will not give up the Strategic Defence Initiative, or the opportunity to develop it."

And he seemed to suggest that Washington would not abandon the SDI as the space defence project is officially dubbed—at any price.

In recent days both Mr Reagan and Mr Weinberger

## Thatcher's successes

By JAMES MACMILLAN'S Diplomatic Staff

MRS THATCHER returned tired but triumphant yesterday from her successful visits to Peking, Hongkong and Washington which have set the seal on a productive year for her statesmanship and standing in the Western alliance.

After an exhausting week of diplomacy and travel, the Prime Minister reached an understanding with President Reagan which places the deployment of space weaponry firms on the agenda for next month's arms talks in Geneva between America and Russia.

Whitehall sources pointed out that, at the same time, Mrs Thatcher managed to squash reports of a rift with Washington and calm American fears about the extent of her support for the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) — the planned development of advanced technology weapons in space to destroy Soviet missile systems. Officials in Downing Street said that the four-point agree-

### SPINSTER BEATEN TO DEATH

Spinster Lena Gratton, 66, was savagely beaten to death at her home in Westhill Close, Stalybridge, Greater Manchester, yesterday.

Police think she opened her door to the killer, possibly expecting to find a carol singer or a churchgoing friend. Her home was ransacked.



Wearing a paper hat, Mrs Thatcher strikes an unparliamentary pose during an impromptu party with reporters on her flight home from the United States.

## PILL LAW 'SHOULD BE CLARIFIED'

By ALAN COPPS

THE GOVERNMENT is expecting moves to clarify the law over the prescribing of contraceptive pills to girls under 16, Mr Clarke, Health Minister, said yesterday.

He defended the Government's decision to appeal to the House of Lords against Thursday's judgment in favour of Mrs Victoria Gillick, a mother of ten from Wiltshire, Cambs, who has fought for six years to outlaw prescribing the pill for under-age girls without parental consent.

Mr Clarke said the law should be "clarified and put beyond any doubt" before the Government reviewed the guidelines issued in doctors by the Department of Health.

The judgment effectively outlawed the current guidelines which were withdrawn on Friday. But Mr Clarke said the appeal, judges had merely stated their belief about the present law, not their view of what the law should be.

### Public interest

Mr Clarke, in a BBC radio interview, said the Government has decided to appeal because of the enormous public interest aroused by the case of Mrs Gillick, a Roman Catholic with five girls under 16. He thought MPs would seek to introduce legislation whatever the outcome of the appeal.

He believed Mrs Gillick's claim that it was illegal for doctors to withhold information from parents had obscured the fact that the current guidelines laid down that doctors should seek to involve parents. Only in cases where that proved impossible were they permitted to prescribe without consent.

## SHOTS FIRED IN RIOT AT IRA FUNERAL

By Our Belfast Staff

Rioting broke out in Londonderry yesterday at the funeral of IRA killer Kieran Fleming, 25, who drowned after fleeing a gun battle with SAS men near the County Fermanagh border.

At least 12 people, including four policemen and a journalist, were injured and several arrests were made.

Three IRA men fired a volley of pistol shots over Fleming's flag-draped coffin. Police were ambushed with bullets and bricks and responded with baton charges.

### WHITE CHRISTMAS

By Our Johannesburg Correspondent

An official inquiry has been ordered into claims that hundreds of blacks were chased off the streets of Pieterburg, South Africa, at the weekend so whites could complete their Christmas shopping.

## Sinclair's pub row with computer foe

By JOHN SHAW

SIR CLIVE SINCLAIR, head of the biggest home computer company in Britain, has been involved in an astonishing public row with a business rival at a pub in Cambridge.

He and Mr Christopher Curry, head of Acorn Computers, clashed in front of staff and customers at the Barn of Beef, a popular rendezvous in Bridge Street. The shouting continued when they met up again later in Shades wine bar, Kings Parade.

Staff from both companies were having a drink as part of an office night out when Sir Clive, a confident and ebullient man, walked into the crowded bar brandishing an Acorn advertisement underlined in criticism of Sinclair machines.

Sir Clive, a former employee of Sir Curry, is now a millionaire business rival.

### Slap over head

Mr Terry Howard, part-time barman at the Barn of Beef, said: "It was absolutely astonishing. After slapping Mr Curry over the head and face, Sir Clive pushed the piece of paper into his face. There was some very strong language indeed flying about."

Mr Bob Wals, landlord of the public house which is opposite St John's College, said: "It was a remarkable row but both gentlemen are regular and valued customers so I won't say any more about it."

After they left, the pair met up again in a nearby pub, painted cellar bar, fashionable among business-men. Each was accompanied by a coterie of followers and the dispute continued.

Sir Clive's company, Sinclair Research, is expected to have a £300 million price tag when Rothschilds, merchant bankers, brings it to the stock market in March.

The firm's Sinclair ZX Spectrum is the best-selling home computer in Britain in a fiercely competitive market which reaches its peak at Christmas.

Sir Clive lives in an opulent stone-built detached house in Maddingley Road, Cambridge, but spends most of his time in London.

Mr Curry lives in a country mansion, Croxall Park, near St Neots, Cambs, which he bought earlier this year for £10 million.

## 4 DIE IN HOLIDAY TRAIN BLAST

An explosion ripped through a packed holiday train as it passed through a tunnel north of Florence last night, killing at least four people and injuring scores of others, the Italian state television service reported.

The explosion occurred in the same 12-mile tunnel where, in August, 1974, a terrorist bomb wrecked a train, killing 12 people.

## CHINA 'TO CHOP CHOP STICKS'

By HUGH DAVIES in Hongkong

CHINA'S one billion inhabitants have been urged to stop using chopsticks in favour of the more hygienic knife and fork.

Hu Yaobang, Communist party chief, told a group of peasants in Peking: "We should prepare more knives and forks, buy more plates and sit around the table to eat Chinese food in the Western style — that is, each from his own plate."

"By doing so, we can avoid contagious diseases."

Hu recently entertained a group of foreign correspondents at his home to a French meal. The table was laid with knives and forks; wine was served in crystal goblets.

### More civilised

Backing for his remarkable statement came yesterday from the People's Daily, China's official voice, which said that the Western style of eating reflected a "civilised, healthy and scientific way of life."

It added that there was a real danger of passing on disease by the traditional method of eating from a common dish with chopsticks.

Endemic Chinese diseases, such as hepatitis, could be greatly reduced if plates, knives and forks were used, the paper stressed.

Hu has also called on Chinese to beef up their daily diet by consuming milk, meat and other high proteins instead of rice, wheat and vegetables.

"That would be a great victory, one of great importance for a fundamental turn for the better in the constitution of the Chinese people," Hu said.

### YO-HO-HO TOW

Father Christmas is personally going to look after drivers who brea down on the M1 to Leicestershire today. Mr Paul Bonau, managing director of Smith's garage at Diseworth, Leicestershire has volunteered to cover motorway breakdowns in his area to raise money for the Children in Need Fund, dressed up as Father Christmas.

## Daily Telegraph

In common with other national newspapers, the Daily Telegraph will not be published on Christmas Day or Boxing Day. The next issue will appear on Thursday, Dec. 27.

### Today's Weather

GENERAL SITUATION: Cold front will clear S.E. England leaving all areas in W. airstream. LONDON, S.E. ENGLAND, E. ANGLIA: Early rain clearing, drizzle, sunny intervals. Wind S. veering W. moderate to fresh. Max. 50° F. Min. 40° F. MIDLANDS, E. N.E. CON. S. ENGLAND, S.E. SCOTLAND: Dry, sunny periods. Wind W. moderate to fresh, backing S.W. 45° F. W.C. CHANNEL IS. S.W. N.W. ENGLAND, WALES, S. SCOTLAND: Sunny spells, scattered showers, drizzle out. Wind W. fresh, backing S.W. strong, 48° F. 18C. N. IRELAND: Sunny spells, showers, snow on hills, evening rain. Wind W. backing S. at 45° F. 16C. S. NORTH SEA, STRAIT OF DOVER: Wind S. force 6-7 or gale 8, becoming W. 4. Sea very rough becoming slight. COT. CH. IREL. N.W. S. or 6-7 backing S.W. 4. Rough becoming slight. CHRISTMAS AND BOXING DAY OUTLOOK: Mild, some rain, becoming colder, wintry showers.

Weather Maps—P.21

## Defiant strike chief stays on in the sun

By TIM BROWN in Tenerife

THE Lancashire miners leader, Mr Sid Vincent, strolled in the shade of an avenue of palm trees at the crowded resort of Playa de las Americas yesterday saying that he would not resign his union post or cut short his holiday in the sun.

The firm supporter of Mr Arthur Scargill, who has caused a row by going on a secret Christmas holiday with Mrs Joan Hodgkinson, added: "Me quit? Listen, I put the great into Lancashire. At the age of 64, trade union men don't resign, they just fade away."

Picture, and other pit news—P.2

## REBEL NUR BRANCH MAY QUIT

By MAURICE WEAVER, Industrial Staff

THE 60-strong branch of the National Union of Railwaymen at Edwinstowe, near Mansfield, has been threatened with dissolution by the union's national leadership because its members have defied instructions to stop movements of coal.

Some members have applied for membership of the non-TUC Federation of Professional Railway Staff, which has offered the group the opportunity of staying together as a branch but under a different trade union flag.

The NUR move is the toughest disciplinary sanction yet imposed on "rebel" railwaymen who refused to co-operate with its policy of supporting the National Union of Mineworkers.

### Shuttle system

Like that of the Transport Workers Union, which represents lorry drivers, the NUR's Left-wing leadership under Mr Jimmy Knapp has been embarrassed by the widespread non-compliance with its instructions on the part of a rank-and-file membership who are out of sympathy with the NUM's handling of its dispute.

The Edwinstowe men run shuttle trains between working Midlands collieries and power stations, the system known in the industry as the merry-go-round.

They have said they would stop moving coal only if the local miners also voted democratically to do so. Dissolution of their branch means they would come under the influence of other branch officials and subject in other branch decisions on the issue.

## SCARGILL'S PICKET-LINE CHRISTMAS

Arthur Scargill joined Father Christmas at a party for 350 miners' children at Worsborough Bridge miners' welfare club near Barnsley yesterday.

He said he plans to spend Christmas Day on the picket line at Ferry Bridge power station, near Castleford, West Yorkshire.

"That is where a friend of mine who got killed, Joe Green, would have been and that is where I will be," he said.

REGENT STREET LONDON W1

SALE STARTS THURSDAY DEC 27

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9am-7pm (Thurs) 9am-6pm (Fri/Sat)

REGENT STREET LONDON W1



# PROBLEM OF PRIVATISATION'S POOR PERKS

By ROLAND GRIBBEN, Business Correspondent

THE Government is looking for a further stimulus in encouraging wider share ownership among the public from State assets in the privatisation pipeline.

But none is expected to have the same appeal as British Telecom, which broke all records, and at a stroke doubled the estimated two million individuals holding shares.

The offer of discounts on telephone vouchers and a share bonus played a considerable part in producing an unprecedented public interest.

Although many have been tempted by a sizeable profit, Telecom expects to retain about a million ordinary shareholders.

Other State companies in the privatisation stakes are considerably smaller and there are difficulties in matching the Telecom perks for businesses as widely different as British Airways, Royal Ordnance factories and National Bus.

British Airways is the next State candidate lumbering up on the privatisation runway, but Lord King, chairman, will not be following BT in offering discounts on seats to woo the travelling public.

**Holiday discounts**

International airline regulations and Common Market rules prevent such a public offer. In any event, there is widespread discounting in the airline travel trade to ensure that the traveller, provided he is prepared to shop around, can bargain for a cut price ticket to 50.

Any BA incentive will come after the start of the holiday season in late April, and will be most probably in the shape of a discount on a package holiday.

But perks or other temptations are not the prerogative of State companies in search of a new body of shareholders.

More than 100 companies, most of them quoted on the Stock Exchange, offer a variety of incentives ranging from discounts on travel to a cut-price funeral and cheaper furniture tickets for Wimbledon.

The promoters of EuroRoute, one of the consortia with its own ideas for a cross-airline link, are also looking to the future. They are holding out the prospect of cut-price under-water travel for shareholders on the lines of what European Ferries at present offers surface travellers.

**High-tax relief**

The creation of the consortium owes much to the ubiquitous Mr MacGregor, who appears to be determined to be remembered as the industrialist who ran the steel and coal industries, and finally helped bridge the "itch" between Britain and France.

EuroRoute wants a combined road and rail link, costing an estimated £4.5 billion, £3 billion more than twice the price of the rail-only tunnel and has produced a range of novel financing suggestions to provide private rather than public sector finance.

They range from conventional bank loans to the creation of a tax free revenue bond market on United States lines and the introduction of the Euroshare, another tax incentive modelled on the government's Business Expansion Scheme, which allows relief for investment by high taxpayers.

The consortium is anxious to encourage the holidaymaker and business traveller to invest to help broaden the political appeal of a project which has its origins in the 19th century. But there will be no instant benefit.

A tax free £100 bond is being mooted as part of the financing package. It would be sold through banks, travel agents or even offered as a promotion or competition prize and would give reduced rates on journeys between 1995-97.

**Shareholder revolt**

The investment is more for the bottom drawer or possibly something for the grandchildren—although if Channel history is any guide, great-grandchildren are more likely to benefit.

But there is no doubting the demand for cut-price travel offers. European Ferries faced a shareholders' revolt when it attempted to change the rules for cross-Channel fare concessions to reduce the huge cost of the perk and was forced to make changes.

There are discounts ranging from 25 p.p. to 50 p.p. on Townsend Thoresen ferry fares for an unlimited number of crossings. But shareholders have to hold 300 £1 preference shares and from January 1st, 1990, the qualifying limit will be 600.

The company now has over 165,000 shareholders and offers hotel discounts, a £500 refund on a holiday, if a shareholder buys property at La Manga, Golf and Country Club in Spain, as well as education sponsorships at University College, Buckingham.

Britain pioneered shareholder concessions, a point made by stockbrokers Seymour Pierce in a new guide to the perks on offer. The guide has an important health warning—the stockbrokers point out that share price fluctuations can reduce the value of a concession.

**Wimbledon perk**

The guide also shows that the short route to a Centre Court seat at Wimbledon can prove expensive. A tennis enthusiast waiting to buy a £50 non-interest bearing debenture to qualify for one centre court seat next year with the use of private lounge and a car park space during the Wimbledon fortnight would have to fork out at least £1,800 to pay for the privilege.

The going rate for a £500 debenture for seats between 1986-90 with priority for seats between 1991-95 is £4,500 if you can get one.

At the other end of the scale, all shareholders in Areson Group qualify for a 20 p.p. discount on Roomsets fitted bedroom furniture. British Leyland is not so generous, offering only £100 discount on a new Austin Rover car bought from an authorised distributor or main dealer.

Barclays Unicorn will give all its unit trust holders a 5-5 discount on Concorde Q-2 excursions to New York. But Trafalgar, the Cunard owner, offer the better deal.

**Cleaning up**

For Trafalgar shareholders with a minimum holding of 250 there is a 15 p.p. discount on transatlantic voyages, a 10 per cent. reduction on world cruises, and the cost of staying at the Ritz and other Cunard hotels can be 15 per cent. lower.

The Savoy Group, by contrast, is positively stingy. A recent offer only allowed shareholders a 5 p.p. discount per person each night on a two-night stay at the Savoy or Claridges.

The Securicor group provides "occasional discounts" on cordless telephones to all shareholders. Skelchey, the cleaning business, gives a 25 per cent. discount on most of its services for a holding of 300 ordinary shares.

For the price of a 100-share holding in London there are 20 per cent. 30 per cent. on hotels, £20 off a Dutton-Forsyth car service, 25 per cent. discounts on purchases from Southern Watch and Clock, and varying allowances on Volkswagen and Audi cars.

Given the top people's clout, give a 20 per cent. discount for a minimum of 600 shares, and most drinks companies, including Bass, Whitbread and Allied Lyons, offer a reduced price on hotel accommodation, drinks and meals.

To round it all off, Dominion International will provide £250 to cover the cost of burial or cremation of a shareholder who dies, as long as they held 500 ordinary shares.



## FEE HITS AT ULSTER 'GRASSES'

By Our Dublin Correspondent

THE Supergrass system used by the police in Northern Ireland was described yesterday as another form of internment by the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, Cardinal Thomas F. O'Donnell.

Between 400 and 500 prisoners had been arrested under the Supergrass system, he said, and this was more than had been picked up when internment was introduced in 1971.

The cardinal complained that in each of the "Supergrass" cases, the prisoners had been kept on remand for very long periods, some of them up to three years.

A group from his own diocese was jailed for 20 months before being released. They had continuously pleaded their innocence.

The Supergrass went around the jail and looked in the cell doors, saying "That is so-and-so. Despite the inducement offered to him he was not prepared to go into open court and give evidence against the prisoners."

Cardinal Fee said that even legal representatives admitted that the Supergrass system was "wide open to abuse." It provided a chance for a worthless person to make money, to make a new name for himself and to live abroad.

The cardinal said he believed it would be preferable not to have another summit meeting between Mrs. Thatcher and the Irish Prime Minister, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, if it turned out like the last one at Chequers.

The report of the New Ireland Forum, which suggested a number of solutions to the Ulster situation with Irishmen being encouraged to live together as Christians, was the bottom line and everything must start from there.

Referring to Mrs. Thatcher's dismissal of the Forum Report as "an outburst," the cardinal said he did not think there could be any future successful summit unless "out, out, out" becomes "in, in, in."

## BOMB AT HOME OF DAIL MP'S DAUGHTER

Dublin police were yesterday investigating the petrol bombing of the home of a daughter of a member of the Irish Republic's parliament.

Mrs Susan Ronane and her husband, Dennis, escaped unharmed from the early hours attack on their house in Glasnevin, Dublin.

Two youths on a motorcycle threw petrol bombs through the window of the couple's sitting room which was badly damaged in the fire that followed. Mrs Ronane is the daughter of Mr. Michael Barrett, a Fianna Fail opposition party representative to the Dail for the Dublin Northwest constituency.

## Ford sewing strikers may return on Jan 2

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

SHOP stewards representing the 250 striking Ford sewing machinists have given the nod to their union's return-to-work formula agreed with the company last Friday.

They are expected to recommend acceptance by the strikers, most of them women, when they meet to discuss the deal on Friday.

If the strikers ratify the formula it will mean a return to work on Jan. 2 not only for the machinists but for the 8,200 other Ford employees who have been laid off as a result of the stoppage.

Because the layoff was through an internal dispute at the Halewood plant on Merseyside will meet simultaneously on Friday. Both the company and the union negotiators believe that they will agree to the proposals, not least because their shop stewards were present at the talks in London last week when they were thrashed out.

The strikers are also under immense pressure from the rest of the workforce because of the layoffs and because payment of a 7 per cent. pay settlement, due last November and already agreed in principle, has been delayed by the stoppage.

Mr. Todd, who is shortly due to relinquish his direct responsibilities as the Transport Union's Ford negotiator to take over the general secretaryship of his union, has described the dispute as one of the most difficult in his experience.

It has cost the company lost car production value at around £250 million at showroom prices, and has had serious knock-on effects on the components industry.

**One-off event**

The company had previously rejected independent arbitration on the grounds that the pay arrangements are too complex for outsiders to grasp quickly, and that it would set a precedent which could put other agreements in jeopardy.

**BP wants pipeline through Navy base**

By ROLAND GRIBBEN, Business Correspondent

BRITISH Petroleum is seeking Ministry of Defence clearance to lay a 30-mile long pipeline to carry oil from Europe's biggest onshore oilfield in Dorset for export from the top secret naval base at Portland.

It is pressing Mr. Heseltine, Defence Secretary, for an early decision to avoid any further hold-ups in the £200 million expansion programme for the Wyth Farm field, near Poole, Dorset.

Two alternatives have been already rejected on environmental grounds, a pipeline through the New Forest and an extension of the existing oil train service to 65 loads a week.

Another idea under consideration involves the construction of a 15,000-ton "flat bottomed" tanker in Japan to run a shuttle service through the shallow waters to Poole harbour.

Production at Wyth Farm is planned to build up from the present 4,000 barrels a day to 40,000 daily barrels or more, equivalent to two million tonnes a year, by the end of the decade but the development programme has provision for handling 60,000 barrels or three million tonnes.

**Major expansion**

BP, which has a 50 per cent. stake in the field, is asking for planning permission to push ahead with the major expansion by drilling new wells in the garden like atmosphere of Furze, the second biggest island in Poole harbour.

Earlier plans to drill on the environmentally sensitive Studland Point have been temporarily abandoned in the face of fierce local opposition.

But Mr. Mike O'Sullivan, BP's project manager, said: "We can't abandon the idea of drilling in the area until we have more information about the field."

The Friends of the Earth have said they will fight the Furze development but experts brought in by BP say there is nothing ecologically significant about the island, bought by BP from Mr. Alyn Cluff, chairman of Cluff Oil and owner of the SPECTATOR.

**NON-STOP SUGAR**

British Sugar is to maintain continuous production over Christmas and the New Year at its 12 processing factories in the eastern counties to cope with a near-record sugar beet crop of more than one million tonnes.

**STRIKE SOUVENIR**

Commemorative porcelain candleholders depicting the Prime Minister and Mr. Arthur Scargill are selling quickly at the one-man pottery business run by Mr. Ned Haywood in Chepstow, Gwent.

## OIL PRICE THREAT TO TAX CUTS

By ROLAND GRIBBEN, Business Correspondent

A FURTHER drop in North Sea oil prices is raising fears among Conservative MPs that the Government's room for manoeuvre for tax cuts in the Budget in March may be reduced.

The British National Oil Corporation is to start talks shortly that are expected to lead to a reduction in the official \$28.65 a barrel base price.

But corporation negotiators are not planning to show their hand until the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries shows whether it can get its act together to stabilise the market.

Opec ministers are involved in urgent discussion with governments to try to get agreement on proposals aimed at ending cheating on output quotas and discounting to avoid a price cut.

**Changes inevitable**

The ministers have urged Britain and Norway to cut North Sea production to make some contribution to restoring market stability. They fear another North Sea cut in prices could trigger an all-out price war.

The threats are not being taken seriously in Whitehall since a free-for-all would harm the more vulnerable Opec members as much as Britain. But with the gap between official and spot market prices for North Sea oil again back over \$2 a barrel, it is recognised that changes will have to be made.

Mr. Lawson, Chancellor, is relying heavily on rising North Sea income to help fund the budget tax cut. The Government's take is expected to be around £12 billion in the next tax year.

The increase in revenue has led to predictions that Mr. Lawson may have £3 million available for tax changes—double the amount he has already indicated.

The depreciation of sterling against the dollar, the oil industry currency, has already cancelled out the effects of the Opec reduction in North Sea prices and protected Government income. Every dollar a barrel cut in prices reduces Government income by £400 million in a full year.

But there is nervousness in Whitehall about the wider implications on sterling, particularly on the level of inflation. If the £ is forced down further because of lower oil prices, although foreign exchange experts are of the prospect of a £ already being discounted by fast week's sterling table.

**JAILED MINER TO BE FREED TODAY**

A striking miner jailed last week for a month for threats and throwing a brick at a strike-breaker's house will be released today.

James Lees, 31, of Chestnut Drive, New Olorton, Notts, had his sentence reduced on appeal to 12 days.

**CAMPAIGNER'S WILL**

Mrs Pat Seed, the cancer campaigner who raised more than £5,000,000 for cancer research and suffered from the disease for seven years, left £169,401 net (£180,650 gross) in her will. She died in August, aged 57, 10 weeks after her husband Geoffrey was killed in the Abbeystead pumping station explosion.

**2p ON CIGARETTES**

Prices of cigarettes, cigars and tobacco made by the Gallaher group are to go up on Jan. 25. Cigarettes will be increased by 2p for 20.

# Mine equipment firms expect big post-strike orders

By MAURICE WEAVER, Industrial Staff

MINING equipment companies from all over the world are hoping for big orders from the Coal Board when the miners' dispute finally ends.

They know the board will need new equipment worth millions of pounds, to get strike-bound and neglected mines back into production.

Organisers of the International Mining Exhibition, due to take place at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, in June, report they have already sold the bulk of their stand space to firms wishing to bring their latest equipment to the Coal Board's attention.

Many of the firms are British. The Coal Board traditionally buys about 80 per cent. of its capital equipment from manufacturers in this country.

But German, French, Swedish and Canadian firms are also bringing their machinery in the hope that the post-strike demand will be too much for the home industry to manage.

They suspect that, with coal stocks at pitheads, power stations and steelworks severely depleted after a strike which still shows no real signs of cracking after ten months, the board will be under immense political and economic pressure to get production back to high levels as soon as possible.

**'Unique situation'**

Mr. Keith Whitworth, editor of the COLLIERIES GUARDIAN, the specialist journal read by pit managers, said: "The length of the strike has created a unique situation for the mining equipment industry."

The foreign companies have undoubtedly identified a strong potential market over here in the next few years and have decided they want a piece of the action.

Since the strike started on March 23, coal faces have been lost through neglect, mainly as a result of flooding, the build-up of lethal gas, or what NCB officials call "strata squeeze."

The last problem, which is the most damaging, arises from the long-term effect of pressure on static coal faces and underground roadways. This causes

not only roofs to collapse, but floors to lift. Eleven "salvage" faces—ones which have been virtually worked out and were being run down—have been lost in most cases before machinery could be withdrawn.

Nineteen more coal faces are said to be in a "serious" condition and 70 are causing concern.

**£2m coalface cost**

On average it costs £2 million to equip a modern, long-wall coalface with cutting machinery, conveyors and roof supports.

It is the replacement of this equipment—submerged, rusted, crushed or trapped for ever—that looks like giving the equipment industry its biggest lift in years.

A Coal Board spokesman said yesterday that no detailed estimate of the total damage caused by the strike has yet been prepared.

A full assessment will be carried out only when the dispute is over. But the board emphasises that its policy will continue to be that of buying British wherever possible.

Its main items of imported equipment at present are a number of sophisticated German coal-cutting machines.

The board official added: "If the foreign companies are moving to hoping that we will be going on an overseas buying spree, they will almost certainly be disappointed."

The Coal Board has a close working relationship with major British mining equipment manufacturers like Dowty, Galloway, Dobson and the Scottish firm of Anderson Strathclyde.

Only if such home-based firms cannot meet the board's technical, price or delivery specifications do orders go overseas.

The board official said: "When that situation arises we discuss the problem with the British firms to give them an opportunity to consider their position. Only after that procedure has been gone through would we go for overseas tenders."

**Scots TUC calls for resumption of talks**

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

THE SCOTTISH TUC yesterday called for an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. Younger, to press for the reopening of negotiations between the Coal Board and the N.U.M.

The call came against a background of a growing strike rebellion by miners in the traditionally hard-line Scottish coalfield where nearly one in five of the workforce is now back at work.

The Scottish TUC Secretary, Mr. Jimmy Milne, said: "The longer this dispute continues, the more damage is done, not only to the mining industry, but to a number of other sectors of the economy and entire communities."

"We believe the Government has a responsibility to make clear to the NCB that it wishes a resumption of meaningful negotiations to settle the strike on an equitable basis."

**Fears for Ravensraig**

Mr. Milne's statement reflects the concern of the Scottish labour movement, including the miners, at the possible long-term impact on the country's industrial base if the strike goes on.

There are already fears for the future of the Ravensraig steelworks, the closure of which would have serious spillover effects on local manufacturers and on the future of the pits which rely on it as principal customer for their coal.

It is these fears, in a region already hit hard by unemployment problems, that have led to some 2,500 of Scotland's 12,500 miners going back, despite desperate attempts by their president, Mr. Michael McGahey, to hold them in line.

One Scottish pit, Bilston Glico, is now working normally and three others are producing coal.

Of the remaining eight, only one is listed by the Coal Board as being wholly strikebound or picketed out.

**BALLOT AID BAN 'HARMS UNIONS'**

By Our Industrial Staff

THE TUC is coming under pressure from one of its largest members to reverse its policy of non-cooperation with closed shop ballots. The Union of Communication Workers believes the policy is harming unions far more than it is harming employers.

Under the 1982 Employment Act, any closed shop which has not been supported in a secret ballot by 80 per cent. of the workers affected automatically lapses on Nov. 1 the year.

TUC policy has been not to co-operate with any such votes, and the result has been that fewer than 100 closed shops, and only small ones, have been voted on. Where ballots have taken place it has been because local union officials have gone against union policy.

In large industries such as rail and the Post Office, closed shop agreements have now lost all legal force, which means unions cannot any longer insist that workers who have no union card should be dismissed.

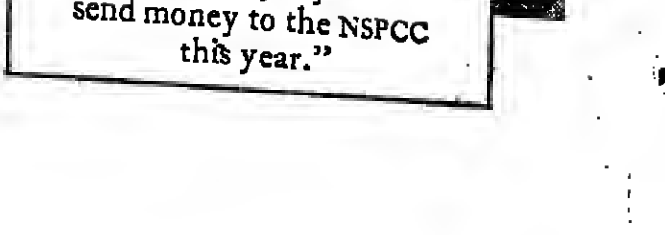
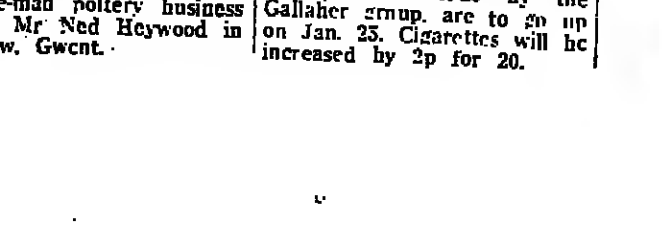
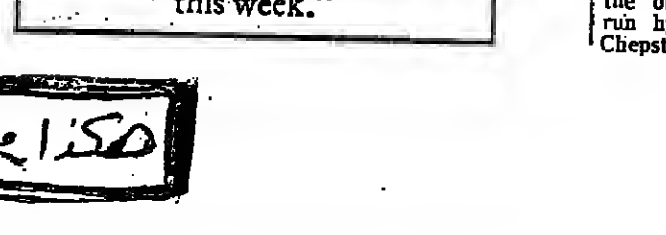
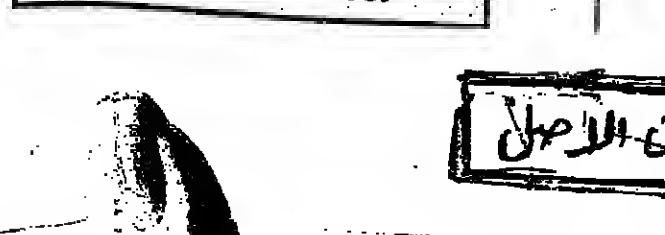
This potentially, add over time, is likely to erode the unions' bargaining power and power to control members.

Mr. Alan Tiffin, general secretary of the 196,000-strong UCU, and a TUC general council member, said yesterday that the TUC ban on closed shop ballots appeared to be a case of unions "shooting themselves in the foot."

"When I've finished the paper, I'll think about sending money to the NSPCC."

"I'll definitely send some money to the NSPCC this week."

"I'll really try to send money to the NSPCC this year."





# AGENCY CHIEF CUT OUT 'SNUB' TO PRINCE

By A. J. McILROY

MR David Chipp, editor in chief of the Press Association, said yesterday that no outside pressure was applied on the agency to withdraw a report that Princess Anne and her husband, Capt. Mark Phillips, had "snubbed" the Prince and Princess of Wales by not attending Friday's christening of Prince Harry.

"I and I alone was responsible for deleting certain words from the agency's original report," he said in a statement.

"No one instructed, advised or even asked me to take out such words as 'snub' or 'feud' from our original story."

"When I read our story I was uneasy that we had interpreted Princess Anne's absence in a way that people might say we could not substantiate."

Mr Chipp said that he could neither confirm nor deny reports at the weekend that he had been telephoned personally by the Prince of Wales over the original report which appeared under the name of the agency's Court correspondent, Grania Forbes.

In her first report Miss Forbes talked of a "family feud" and said that Princess Anne had snubbed the Prince and Princess of Wales. Instead of attending the christening Princess Anne and her husband left their home early on Friday dressed for shooting.

In her substitute story references to a snub and feud were omitted. It began: "The entire Royal Family with the exception of Princess Anne and Capt Mark Phillips today attended the christening of three-month-old Prince Harry."

## Categoric assurance

Mr Chipp went on: "In conversations with Buckingham Palace I was made aware that there was unhappiness over our report and received a categoric assurance that the interpretation we had put on it was just not true."

"I therefore decided to put out a substitute story simply relating the facts and leaving other people to interpret them as they wished."

Scenes from the christening, St George's Chapel, Windsor.

will be featured in the Queen's Christmas Day broadcast.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said that all members of the Royal Family who attended will be shown. Publicity over the non-attendance of Princess Anne and her husband would not affect the material for the broadcast.

## Wearied by calls

Clearly wearied by the number of calls from the world's media over the situation, the Press officers repeated the earlier statement that "it was a matter of regret" that Princess Anne and Captain Phillips had been unable to attend, but that it had been understood from the start they would not be present.

They declined to comment on questions asking whether Princess Anne had been upset at not being asked to be Prince Harry's godmother.

The Royal Family is at Windsor preparing for a traditional Christmas "at home." Princess Anne and her husband joined the party on Friday evening.

Blazing log fires at Windsor Castle, and the setting of Home Park and Great Park for the taste of outdoor life so loved by the Royal Family, is the background for several days of relaxation.

A high point is the Christmas Eve dinner for the whole family, followed by another free day since the Queen now pre-records her Christmas Day broadcast.

The Queen and her family travel to Sandringham after Christmas for the equally traditional New Year stay on her estate.

The Queen's broadcast is televised at 5 p.m. on Christmas Day and is on Radio 4 at 9.30 a.m.



A change of clothing for one guest and a bowl of soup for another at the disused Bloomsbury bus garage which will be home for the homeless over Christmas.



## 1,600 Army lunches for homeless

By CON. COUGHLIN

HUNDREDS of down-and-outs yesterday checked into a disused London bus garage where they will be given food and shelter for the next six days.

More than 3,000 are expected to pass through the temporary shelter which has been set up by the charity "Crisis at Christmas."

They will get free meals, with a Christmas dinner being provided by the Army Catering Corps recently commended by Egon Ronay for its excellence.

The Army offered to help after Westminster Technical College, which normally prepares a Christmas dinner for the centre, suddenly found itself unable to do so.

Trainees on the Army's School of Catering Basic Course at St Omers Barracks, Aldershot, stepped in and offered to prepare the Christmas feast.

They prepared 1,600 portions of turkey and trimmings which have been deep frozen and will be brought out to serve to the homeless tomorrow.

## 400 volunteers

At least 400 volunteers will be working round the clock at the centre for the six day period during which time more than 1,500 meals will be served. Thousands of cups of tea and soup will also be available on demand as new people arrive.

The volunteers, all of whom are homeless and alone in London, will sleep on mattresses on the floor.

Medical attention will be on hand throughout the day and there will be a clothing section where those needing new, warm clothes, can be fitted out.

"Crisis at Christmas" was started 18 years ago by the late Alan Macleod who called upon people from all political parties and religious denominations to come together at this time of year to help the single homeless.

## TURKEY ON 81 pc OF TABLES

Three out of four people think Christmas is becoming less religious than it was during their childhood, and as mainly a chance to meet family and friends now, according to the latest Gallup Poll published in The Sunday Telegraph.

Only 3 per cent think it is becoming more religious.

Of those asked which of a number of activities they will be doing this Christmas as compared with 1981, 81 per cent said they would eat turkey 162 per cent, 78 per cent would have a Christmas tree (401: 74 per cent), were staying at home (1981 figures not available); 37 per cent were having a family party (54).

## 54th CAKE

A Brussels baker yesterday claimed the record for the world's longest Christmas cake, a traditional "Yule-log" 54ft 4in long, sold for a children's charity. — A.P.

## Growers pine over tree glut

By IAN BALL in New York

AN estimated 32 million American families have bought a real Christmas tree this season, paying on average \$50 (£23).

It has been another bumper year for an industry which has its own trade association and an elaborate network of wholesalers, distributors and dealers. It may, however, be the last merry year for some time so far as the growers are concerned.

A major glut of Christmas trees is in the making.

"Right now there are more than 300 million trees in the ground," said Mr Donald McNeil, executive director of the National Christmas Tree Association. "By 1987 we could have 50 million or 60 million trees a year on the market."

This year alone, growers planted more than 80 million trees.

## Two-tree family

And in make matters worse for traditional growers in such northern states as Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Vermont, farmers in Georgia and other southern states have found they can grow handsome Virginia pine trees in three to five years — half the time it takes for the firs and spruces to reach Christmas-tree height.

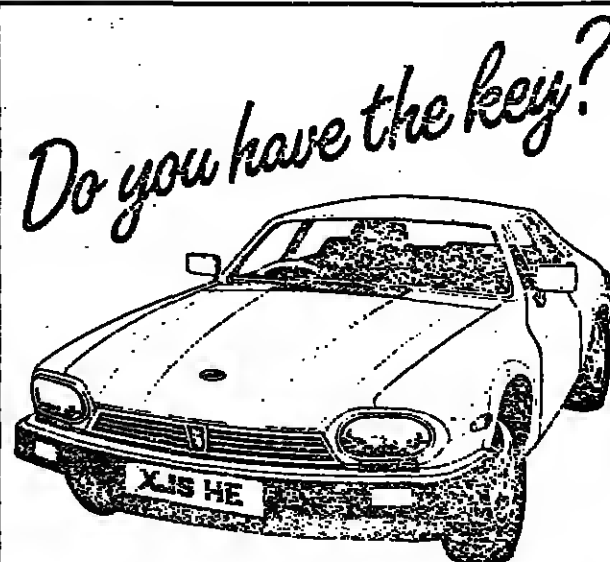
The growers' Association is considering an advertising campaign for next year and special promotional efforts. One possibility being explored is the "two-tree family."

## HEATH'S CAROLS RAISE £1,000

Mr Heath, the former Prime Minister, conducted his 40th Christmas carol concert in his former home town of Broadstairs yesterday.

Mr Heath's guests included the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, and Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, whose Requiem Mass for the late Sir John Gielgud was performed and whose wife, Sarah, was the soloist. A collection raised a total of £1,075 for local charities.

The Daily Telegraph, Monday, December 21, 1984



Have you received your Thistle Key yet?

It could open the door to a Jaguar XJS HE Coupé. Or one of three Austin Mini Mayfairs. Or one of six trips to the USA on Concorde. Or even one of hundreds of Thistle Highlife Breaks.

All these prizes can be won when you visit any Thistle Hotel during January and February 1985 and present your Key to open our 'World of Thistle' safe.

Your Key also guarantees a gift of two bottles of Appellation Contrôlée wine when you stay at full or corporate rates for a minimum of two nights.

For every guest, there is a special welcome and the chance to enjoy the benefits of our current £30 million investment programme in new facilities.

You'll also find that the American Express Card is warmly welcomed at each of the 35 Thistle hotels.

Phone 01-937 8033 to make your reservation. Full details of the Thistle Key promotion will be sent on request, with your booking confirmation.

## THISTLE HOTELS

London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Cheltenham, Glastonbury, Kendal, Liverpool, Luton, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, St. Albans, Tisbury, Weybridge, Aberdeen, Aviemore, Dundee, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Shetland.

## Frustrations of £50 cheque card limit

By BRENDA PARRY

AS Christmas shopping takings reached record levels at the weekend, traders and shoppers were becoming increasingly frustrated by the £50 limit on bank guarantee cards.

## FIVE KILLED IN M-WAY CRASH

Daily Telegraph Reporter FIVE people, including two children, were killed in a crash on the M27 near Southampton at the weekend when an articulated lorry jackknifed into the path of two on-coming cars in steady rain.

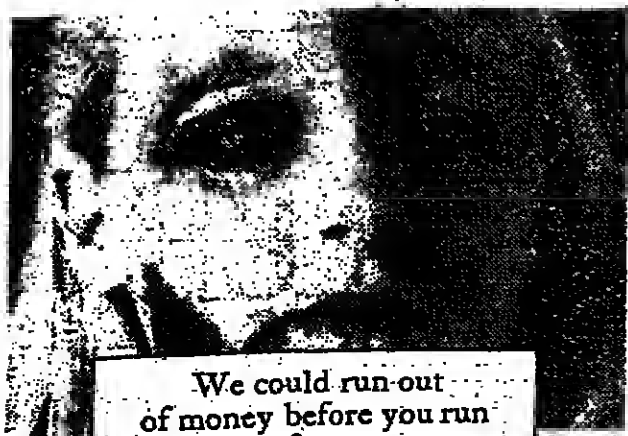
Police said the dead included a French family of four, who were identified from their passports. Next of kin have still to be informed.

A Southampton man also died and his eight-year-old son was seriously injured in the accident. He is not being named until his daughter, believed to be abroad on a trip, has been informed.

## Guardian died

In other accidents in Hampshire, two drivers died in a three-car pile-up on the A3 near Petersfield, and a young guard died after a hit-and-run accident at Aldershot.

The drivers were named as Mr William Haggarty, 39, of Rotton, and Havant, both Hampshire. The soldier who died was Guardsman Robert Fleming, 22, of the Royal Army Dental Corps, based at Aldershot.



We could run out of money before you run out of excuses.

Before you put this newspaper down, get a pen, your cheque book (or a postal order) and send a donation to the NSPCC.

It doesn't matter how much you send; the money will be used to give the chance of a normal childhood to children who've never had one. Dr A. Goldman, NSPCC, appeals.

c/ Sutton Hill, London EC2N 1BS.

NSPCC. We've helped 9 million children in the last 100 years.

# THE ACCOUNT THAT EARNS YOU A GUARANTEED 6% P.A. TAX-FREE.

During 1985 the National Savings Ordinary Account is offering a guaranteed interest rate of 6% p.a. on balances maintained at £500 or more. Whatever happens to other interest rates, this one will not change in the coming year.

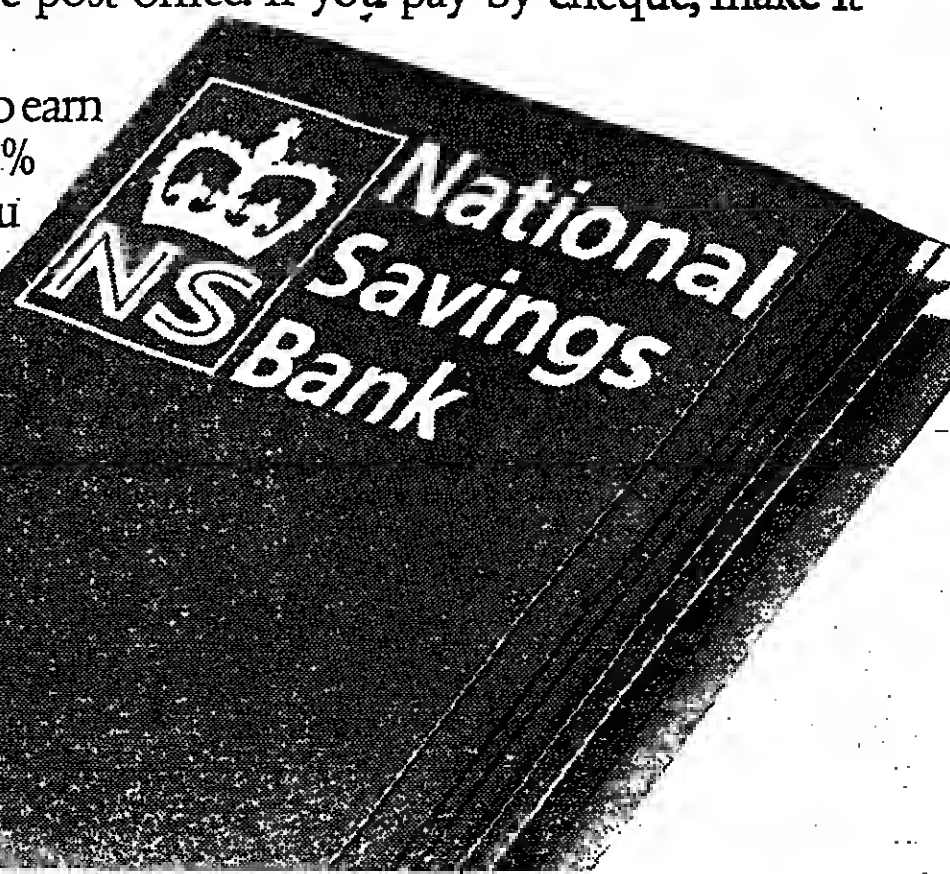
The first £70 a year of interest is free of all UK Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

For example, if you deposit £1,167 before the end of December 1984 and keep it in for the whole of 1985, you will earn the full tax-free benefit of £70. Husbands and wives are each entitled to this amount of tax exemption.

You get a guaranteed rate of interest and ready access to your money. To earn the guaranteed rate of 6% keep at least £500 invested from 31 December 1984 to 1 January 1986. Additional deposits will also earn the 6% rate for each whole month of 1985 that the money is earning interest. (Balances of less than £500 will earn 3%.)

Act by 31 December. You can open a National Savings Ordinary Account at the post office. If you pay by cheque, make it out to "The Post Office."

And don't forget to earn the guaranteed rate of 6% for the whole of 1985, you must act before the end of December 1984.





# 25 YEARS BEFORE 'STAR WARS' IS MILITARY REALITY

By Maj.-Gen. EDWARD FURSDON  
Defence Correspondent

THE American Strategic Defence Initiative—called "Star Wars" by Reagan's critics—does not even exist in hardware terms, and could not effectively do so for another 25 to 30 years.

It is currently a live political issue of the highest profile and of huge potential advantage for the West—even though it is not a military reality.

Implementation of SDI would be so disadvantageous for the Soviet Union, an important Western arms control source said yesterday, that it is already trying its hardest to manipulate this non-existent strategic concept politically.

It is seeking to prise the European nations from the Nato alliance and is also fighting to secure its own future relative position in the space arms race.

"SDI is only a notion, an aim, an artist's impression of something which simply is not yet in being," he said.

Currently political at this moment—it is really only a bunch of different proposals about which there is certainly no strategic concept of what it might one day contain, or how it would work.

"No one knows now whether it would eventually be based on pulse-lasers, particle beams, or some other high-energy system either alone or in combination.

10 research contracts  
"All that really exists today," he said, "is 10 feasibility research contracts, let to 10 American companies, all charged with looking into what the Strategic Defence Initiative really ought to be, and about £1.2 million in next year's American defence budget."

This competitive research will probably take up to ten years—followed by possible agreements on the guidelines for a strategic concept and then at least another ten years of development.

"Finally, it could be a further five to ten years before any deployed hardware weaponry became fully operationally effective."

"SDI is thus not a near-term business at all, but something some 25 to 30 years ahead, which is in practice, another strategic nuclear missile generation away."

Even then, no one could ever give a 100 per cent. guarantee that SDI would provide a completely impenetrable shield against an enemy nuclear attack. But if an effective SDI were ever deployed in position, its role would be that of a deterrent, making any enemy first strike attack a very expensive option indeed.

It could thus buy crisis stability but, given the unchaosged current imperatives of the

super-powers, not necessarily slow down, still less eliminate, maybe even enhance, the arms race.

A major Soviet objective in publicising the SDI issue now is to try to use it, if possible, to obtain a total ban on all weapons in space, or at least a moratorium on them.

One important reason for this is that currently satellites and missiles in space are categorised differently.

Whereas the Soviet Union is comparatively advanced in anti-ballistic missile work, for which there is a related treaty, it is well behind America on anti-satellite satellites (ASATs), which are a reality now and currently not subject to any treaty restriction.

Furthermore, only the testing of anti-satellite satellites can be currently monitored. There is no practical way of effectively monitoring or verifying what an orbiting satellite (which could be an ASAT) is actually carrying, so long as it stays quiet, and does not care to reveal its payload.

Hence only the Russian proposed total ban on all space weapons—which would thus automatically include ASATs—would negate the current American lead, and thus reduce current Soviet concerns.

Reasons for support  
"It is this type of practical issue that obviously lies behind Mrs Thatcher's support of continued space research and testing by keeping the West's future strategic space options open."

By continuing the West's work in fields in which the Soviet Union is known also to be investing large resources, and in which they are known to be behind—the argument is that the West will be doing two vital things.

First, ensuring that it will not be fatally disadvantaged by some sudden new Soviet scientific breakthrough, second, keeping up its leading edge in space is the strongest negotiating stance from which to follow its declared prime policy of negotiating arms control with the East.

## AIRBORNE AGAIN

Air New Zealand resumed domestic flights yesterday after making a "major concession" to cabin staff on strike over new fostering. Talks on resuming international flights were continuing—Reuters.



## 'Old soldier' Sokolov takes over defence

By NIGEL WADE  
In Moscow

MARSHAL Sergei Sokolov, 73, a soldier for more than 50 years, was named as Soviet Defence Minister at the weekend to succeed Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, who will be buried on Red Square today.

He has been a First Deputy Defence Minister since 1967 and recently depoliticised for Marshal Ustinov while he was ill.

Earlier speculation had focused on Mr Grigorii Romanov, 61, a Politburo member with responsibility for the defence industry, who was named to head Marshal Ustinov's funeral committee.

Marshal Ustinov himself headed the funeral committee for his predecessor, Marshal Grechko, in 1976.

## Lying in State

It is not known whether Mr Romanov was actually offered the defence post. Some Western analysts think he may have declined, to continue working in the Communist party Secretariat, where he is the leading rival to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, 53, the Kremlin Number Two.

Both attended Marshal Ustinov's lying in state with President Chernenko and other Politburo members on Saturday. Marshal Sokolov, who joined the Red Army in 1932, has travelled widely in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe but never in the West. He has had an important role in negotiating Soviet arms deals in the Third World.

Marshal Sergei Sokolov (left), 73, the new Soviet Defence Minister, standing near the body of his predecessor, Marshal Ustinov, during the lying-in-State in Moscow's Hall of Columns. With Marshal Sokolov are Marshal Sergei Akhromev (centre) and Marshal Viktor Kulikov, former first deputies to Marshal Ustinov.

## Tradition takes over trouble-torn Poland

By ROBIN GEDYE in Warsaw

FATHER CHRISTMAS, brown lace-ups and corduroy turn-ups protruding from his red cape, has been patrolling Marszałkowska Street, Warsaw, with his photographer assistant in the best capitalist tradition.

The passing child is befriended and placed on Father Christmas's knee.

As admiring parents stand back, the photographer leaps forward with his Russian camera to take flash photographs.

He scribbles his address on a notepad, hands it to parents and the unlikely couple disappear into the icy drizzle, the toy bell on Father Christmas's shepherd's crook tinkling off into the middle distance.

Christmas is a time when this staunchly Roman Catholic nation can effect to forget the problems of the daily grind and take solace from one of the few consistent symbols of normality in this tortured land.

Goods are more plentiful this year than at any time since martial law. They are of inferior quality by Western standards and often shoddily made, but most essential clothing items are available. Warsaw is currently drowning

## PRETORIA SOFTENS ITS LINE

By Our Johannesburg  
Correspondent

SPECULATION is mounting that the South African Government is preparing to hold direct talks with the outlawed African National Congress in a major initiative to curb growing political restlessness among the country's huge black majority.

President Botha firmly refuted the claims this weekend and stated it was not his Government's policy to negotiate with organisations promoting violence, and that "no parliamentarians of the nationalist Government will be allowed to do so."

But he added: "We are always willing to talk to groups who follow the road of constitutional development but not to those fostering violence."

The statement fuels a growing belief that the Government may be considering freeing jailed Congress leaders as a prelude to negotiations aimed at lowering the temperature of turbulence that has raged through black townships this year.

## 'Hard-line' Mandela

Blacks have no share in the new constitution, with its separate parliaments for whites, coloureds and Indians, which starts work in earnest in January. But a select parliamentary committee is investigating some way of bringing urban blacks into the political process.

President Botha held talks earlier this month with Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, the powerful Zulu leader, after a lengthy period of estrangement between the two.

It is believed the Chief impressed on the President the need for bold, positive steps to solve South Africa's political dilemmas.

Mr Louis Le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, has also hinted that some Congress leaders such as Walter Sisulu might be freed although Mandela, the man regarded by many blacks as the embodiment of their ideals, remains as hard-line as ever in his resistance to peaceful change.

Mr Botha's statement that no national party MPs will be allowed to take part in direct contact with the African National Congress is seen as a warning to a group of backbenchers not to try to force the pace.

## Rebel aid

It had been reported that a group of MPs would travel to Lusaka, the Zambian capital, early next month to meet Congress representatives.

National party youth leaders who meet in Pretoria have also urged direct contact.

Meanwhile Mr Pik Botha, Foreign Minister, disclosed this weekend he had visited several East African countries in an effort to cut off aid to the Renamo resistance movement in Mozambique which is fighting the Marxist Government of President Machel.

## TRUCE STARTS IN GUATEMALA

By Our Correspondent in Guatemala City

Guerrillas in El Salvador yesterday complied with the first phase of their Christmas truce with the Government, allowing civilian vehicles to circulate across the war-torn nation. The rebels today were also to begin a unilateral three-day cease-fire, which the army has not formally accepted.

The army's refusal to accept the ceasefire has demonstrated the split between the Rightist military and the moderate civilian Government of President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

## Exit Mintoff, social reformer and 'pocket Napoleon'

By CHARLES LAURENCE

THE name of Mr Dom Mintoff has become inextricably linked with the quirky and sometimes violent mould of Maltese politics since independence 20 years ago.

He ruled the tiny George Cross Island, population 520,000 for 13 consecutive years before stepping down as Prime Minister at the age of 68, on Saturday.

But he had been a leading and controversial force in Maltese affairs for more than two decades before he won the 1971 elections.

A small man in charge of a small country, his enemies dubbed him the 'pocket Napoleon' of the Mediter-



Mr Dom Mintoff: making way for a younger man.

They accused him of attempting to set up a Socialist dictatorship in Malta while playing the international stage with an aggression out of all proportion to the importance of the island.

His supporters, on the other hand, revered him for levelling some of the inequalities of Maltese society while steering a skilful course between the super-powers under the flag of 'neutrality' and tackling what they see as the endemic problem of an over-popular and reactionary Roman Catholic Church.

## Social reforms

In truth, his 13 years as Prime Minister achieved much in terms of social reforms that was to the advantage of the majority of his people.

He raised the standards of living for the poor with minimum wage, instituted health care for all—there was no maternity services beyond Church charity before Mintoff—and set up state pensions scheme. Real benefits expanded his power base in the 1970s.

His style of government, however, has always attracted criticism and fears for the future of democracy in the island.

His Labour party has admitted the use of "thugs," a word that is part of the political language of Malta with organised groups of workers, mostly from the state-owned shipyards, used to intimidate his opponents with beatings, bombings and the destruction of homes and offices.

His supporters have buried down the offices of the Times of Malta because he did not like their editorial, while Opposition MPs have been attacked inside the Parliament building.

## Deepening divide

Mr Mintoff's intolerance of opposition came to a head at the last general election when he was soundly defeated by the rival Nationalist party as "gerrymandering" gave him a majority of Parliament seats on 49 per cent of the vote compared to the Nationalists' 51.

The result triggered a constitutional crisis and a deepening divide among the people that he has conspicuously failed to solve before quitting office. Confrontation has been the hallmark of the Mintoff era.

His instinctive reaction to critics is to sack them—as he did the entire medical staff of the island's hospitals when they went on strike seven years ago.

The doctors remain suspended while the hospitals are run with foreigners from Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia. He has also threatened to close down independent trade unions after strikes against his policies.

His most recent battle has been with the Church, in many ways his most powerful opponent in a country where 98 per cent are practising Catholics.

First he passed a law giving the state the right to seize more than half the Church's property but this move is currently suspended by the Constitutional Court. Then he tackled the Church's network of private schools, forbidding them in charge fees.

He postponed his retirement in the face of the crisis that policy triggered while many observers believe that with the Church he has picked a fight neither he, nor his successors, can win.

There is irony in this, for as a boy, Dom Mintoff was destined for the Church. He was born in the slum district of Coopers, a dockland suburb of Valletta, the eldest son of

a family of 11, and was pushed towards the Church by his mother.

Legend has it that in his early teens he suffered humiliation in the eyes of his peers as every Tuesday he was forced by his mother to wear a cut-down habit of a Dominican monk to his Catechism class in honour of St Dominic after whom he was named.

A bright child, he won a scholarship to the seminary but there was further conflict there as his scholarship was withdrawn when he was expelled for a sister, convinced that the family could pay fees.

The young Mintoff abandoned the path to the priesthood and instead came to Britain, as a Rhodes scholar, and spent the war years in London.

## Anti-Britain campaign

He is best known in Britain for his campaign against the British in general and the Royal Navy in particular.

Britain ruled Malta as a colony for more than 150 years and the Grand Harbour at Valletta was the home of the Mediterranean fleet.

Mr Mintoff was determined to expunge the vestiges of the colonial power and even now prefers to date Malta's independence from the day the last Royal Navy ship sailed from the harbour, rather than the official day of independence more than a decade earlier.

There is irony in this too, for in the 50's Mr Mintoff said: "The trouble with Mr Mintoff is that he can never forget that he is the son of a Royal Navy cook."

Since turning his back on Britain, Mr Mintoff has gathered controversial friends including Col Gaddafi of Libya, the North Koreans, who have helped train his tiny army, and the Soviet Union.

In his last weeks as Prime Minister, Mr Mintoff signed a new treaty with Libya and visited Russia, returning with trade agreements while curbing trading partner to the north of the island.

## 1990 DATE FOR CHINA'S LAW ON HONGKONG

By HUGH DAVIES  
In Hongkong

The law by which China is to govern Hongkong will be finalised by 1990, seven years before Britain relinquishes sovereignty, according to Peking officials.

Just how much of the voice of Hongkong will be heard is debatable as all the Chinese say is that they will "solicit" the colony's views. But Peking has pledged to use last week's pact as a basis for the law which at present is similar to Britain's.

However, it says the law will be enacted by the National People's Congress in Peking which acts as a rubber stamp for the Communist regime. In addition, the law must follow the Chinese constitution, which ostensibly allows mainland people many freedoms that in practice are denied.

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21 Lime Street, EC3. Tel: 01-426 12478.  
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Surprise, surprise.

## It's the same old story this Christmas.

A child is born. A mother and child search for shelter. They may by now be dead, or more dead than alive, among the hungry on the move in Africa.

Christian Aid has been getting through to the disaster areas in Ethiopia with over £1 million worth of food, medicines and trucks in the last few weeks (over £3½ million since January), distributed through local churches and relief agencies.

But relief is not enough. That is why we are also giving seed, tools and oxen to the poor. Unless the land is developed, another disaster will follow this one. And more countries in Africa will follow Ethiopia.

To bring good news to the poor is what the Christmas story is really about.

Can you think of anything better to do this Christmas Eve?

To: Christian Aid, P.O. Box 1, London SW9 9BH.

\*I enclose cheque/P.O. for £...../Please debit my Access/Birdcard/Account No.....

We can reclaim tax on convenient gifts from U.K. taxpayers. Tick box for details. ☐

Signature.....

Name.....

Address.....

If receipt needed tick here. ☐

**Christian Aid  
Christmas Appeal**

## CASH FOR GAS BLAST FAMILIES

By Our Correspondent  
in Guatemala City

Mexico's Attorney-General has ordered the State-owned petroleum monopoly to indemnify the families of about 500 people killed when its gas plant in Mexico City exploded last month.

The Attorney-General's Office, which conducted an investigation of the explosion and ensuing fire, said the disaster was caused by a gas leak at the complex of Petroleos Mexicanos.

## GUNMEN GRAB £50m SECURITIES

By Our Toronto Correspondent

Three gunmen have stolen £50 million in securities in the biggest armed robbery in Canadian history, at the brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch, Montreal.

Some of the securities are negotiable. Police say the robbers may have come from abroad, descriptions have been issued to police in America and Europe.



# GANDHI POISED FOR BIG WIN IN ELECTIONS

By DAVID GRAVES in New Delhi  
MR Rajiv Gandhi is expected to lead his Congress (I) party to a landslide victory in India's elections which start today and in which 379 million people can vote for 5,301 candidates.

Opinion polls and commentators have been unanimous in predicting success for the ruling party in the wake of Mrs Gandhi's assassination combined with the lack of serious electoral alternative posed by a divided opposition.

A poll in the magazine INDIA TODAY, which in 1980 correctly forecast the result when Congress won 352 seats, said the 40-year-old Prime Minister would win 566 constituencies.

That would give him a commanding majority in the 542-seat Lok Sabha, the lower House of Parliament.

Mr Gandhi himself said in Bangalore at the weekend: "We will win more than enough seats."

**£450m exercise**

Voting will begin at 8 a.m. today in 379 constituencies in which a 279 million electorate will vote for 4,073 candidates in 22 state and union territories.

On Thursday another 117 constituencies will go to the polls along with 10 seats in the Pradesh in which voting has been spread over two days.

Voting on Friday in three constituencies in Nagaland and Nagaland will end the mammoth exercise likely to cost more than £450 million.

Counting will begin at 4 p.m. on Friday and the results of most constituencies plus the subsequent political composition of the next Parliament, should be known by Saturday.

Elections are not being held in the troubled states of Punjab and Assam, which together account for 27 seats while polling in three constituencies has been postponed because of the deaths of candidates in two seats and the murder of another in the third.

Polling has also been postponed until Jan. 8 in Bihar because of the poison gas disaster and until June in snow-bound Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr Gandhi's party has already claimed the lone seat in the union territory of Mizoram after fielding the only candidate.

## 'Angry' India puts off Heseltine sales trip

By DAVID GRAVES in New Delhi  
A PROPOSED visit to India by Mr Heseltine, Defence Secretary, to discuss multi-million pounds arms sales has been postponed at New Delhi's request.

## ANTI-CIA CAMPAIGN ON BHOPAL

By BALRAM TANDON in New Delhi

INDIA'S Communists are using the gas disaster at Bhopal to unleash a major anti-CIA campaign against the United States and the Central Intelligence Agency, and are warning Indians to be wary of offers of aid for the victims.

The Communists are saying the Bhopal plant was used by the CIA to manufacture lethal gases for its stockpile of chemical warfare weapons.

I was repeatedly asked in Bhopal by professional people whether I did not suspect sabotage.

They suspected the CIA could have masterminded the accident to test the impact of a small quantity of gas on a major habitation centre and its long-term effect on people and the environment.

The Indian Government has so far turned down offers of aid, including teams of doctors, from Union Carbide, of which the Bhopal plant was a subsidiary, partly because India has an impressive pool of doctors in research institutes.

The Congress party during Mrs Gandhi's heyday made the CIA a convenient whipping boy in election campaigns.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, her son and successor as Prime Minister, has not once in the hundreds of speeches made on his election tour this month mentioned the American base at Dico.

But the Congress party is sensitive to Communist propaganda, particularly after the Bhopal disaster, because the CIA has mostly been a strong hold of the Right-wing Bharatiya Janata party.

## BHOPAL PLANT LOSES LICENCE

The Madhya Pradesh state government had refused to renew the licence of the Union Carbide factory which a 2,500 leak in Dec. 3 killed 2,500 people, it was reported in Bhopal yesterday.

The licence was not renewed by the Chief Inspector of Factories because of a breach of safety provisions. Union Carbide applied for renewal in October and the application was rejected on Dec. 14.—Reuters.



Congratulations all round for Mr Ben Jeyaretnam, one of the two victorious opposition leaders, after the Singapore general election.

## Ruffled Lee may change poll system

By IAN WARD in Singapore

REVIEWING his Government's loss of two of the 79 Parliamentary seats in Saturday's Singapore general elections, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew yesterday hinted that the island's one-man-one vote electoral system would have to be carefully reviewed.

The ruling People's Action party (PAP) hierarchy, who had confidently predicted a "clean sweep" victory, were noticeably dismayed by the two constituency seats that went to the Opposition — one to Mr Ben Jeyaretnam, the Workers' party leader, the other to Mr Chiam See Tong, the Singapore Democratic party front runner.

Worse still, as far as the ruling party's leaders were concerned, was the 12 per cent slide of popular support away from the Government that has been in uninterrupted control of the island's destiny for 25 years.

The Government had 75.2 per cent of the vote in 1980. On Saturday this had fallen to 62.9 per cent.

Mr Jeyaretnam's constituency of Anson and Mr Chiam's seat of Potong Pasir were considered critical and the PAP made all-out efforts to secure them.

**Still defiant**

Many diplomatic observers were last night interpreting the sizeable swing as a direct warning from the electorate on the extraordinary arrogance that has become an identifiable feature of the Government in recent years.

But it was a defiant as ever Prime Minister who held an early-morning Press conference yesterday to discuss the outcome.

He characterised the swing to the Opposition as a "skillful ploy" manipulated by a "highly sophisticated electorate" which wanted the PAP Government to remain but at the same time wanted to apply pressure to it.

Mr Lee went on to reiterate his basic argument that Singapore's position in terms of geography, multi-racial population, and lack of resources, made it unable to "play the game of bargains" with internal politics.

If Saturday's voting trends continued, said the Prime Minister, "the one-man-one-vote system must lead to our decline — if not our disintegration."

**'Prosecute' call**

The activities of Dr Chanban, who predicted the assassination of Mrs Gandhi by two Sikh bodyguards, has infuriated the Indian government which has repeatedly lodged protests with London and called for his prosecution for incitement to violence.

Although Mr Heseltine's visit had never been officially announced, it has been pencilled in for February.

India has in recent years turned to West European countries for arms supplies and away from the Soviet Union.

The sales of arms now accounts for 15 per cent of Britain's total annual exports to India, which are worth £800 million.

New Delhi has recently bought 115 Jaguar fighter bombers worth £100 million, eight Sea Harrier jump jets, also worth £100 million, and placed a £50 million order to buy Sea King helicopters equipped with Sea Eagle missiles.

Mr Heseltine was to have discussed these and other planned projects, including an order for a 155mm field gun in which Britain is competing against France, Austria and Sweden, and the joint production of light combat aircraft.

**Denial by FO**

Our Diplomatic Staff writes: The Foreign Office denied yesterday that Indian irritation concerning Sikh extremists in Britain had anything to do with postponing Mr Heseltine's visit. A spokesman said the action was understandable because of the busy political period after India's elections.

**MASS PILE-UPS**

A total of 134 vehicles, mostly driven by Yugoslavs, Greeks and Turks going home for Christmas, were in two pile-ups in the Zagreb-Belgrade road at the weekend, injuring 97 people.—A.P.

## Purge of Red Guards halted by amnesty

By RUGH DAVIES in Hongkong

AN AMNESTY has been declared in China to end the purging of the late Mao Tse-tung's Red Guards who created so much havoc in the late 1960s.

Details were given yesterday in a report to the Communist party Central Committee by Bo Yibo, so-called co-ordinator of a campaign to "eradicate ultra-Leftism."

Investigations of atrocities would be halted as the former Red Guards were "too young to understand" their previous roles, he said.

The move was interpreted as a sop to Leftists, particularly within the Army, who in the past few weeks have been beginning to flex some political muscle.

These elements are thought to have been key figures during the Cultural Revolution and the source of intellectuals and alleged "capitalist roaders" so despised by Mao.

**Teng's proteges**

A careful reading of execution reports in recent weeks has indicated that many of the condemned, apart from being persecuted for rape and fraud, had featured heavily in the bureaucracy of the Revolution.

Teng Hsiao-ping, China's leader, seems to be increasingly anxious not to antagonise these elements.

But he was quoted yesterday as saying: "At present many foreign newspapers and journals are discussing my role. I do play a role. However, I do not want to play the important work."

"I do make some decisions. But it is the comrades responsible for practical work who systematically handle problems and discharge arduous duties."

The "comrades" referred to were thought to be his proteges, Hu Yaobang, Communist party General Secretary, and Zhao Ziyang, the Premier, both of whom are in their 60s.

**CZECH LEADER'S FREEDOM PLEDGE**

President Husak of Czechoslovakia, in an unusual exchange of letters with the nation's Roman Catholic primate, Cardinal Tomashek, has pledged to guarantee religious freedom.

The state-run news agency CTK said he also wished the Church leader good health and much happiness.—A.P.

**Welfare 'luxury'**

He continued: "I do not see the margin for large slices of the cake being taken from one and given to the other."

Singapore, he said, could not afford the luxury of welfare schemes of other countries, particularly like Britain.

"You can do this in Britain. Doctors who don't like it immigrate, and the British take in Indian and Pakistani doctors and the health service carries on."

"In Singapore, if the doctors decide they are not getting the life that they ought to, they just leave. And that's the end of our health service," said the Prime Minister.

**GADDAFI REMARK UPSETS SPAIN**

By Our Madrid Correspondent

Spain has demanded an explanation from Libya after Col. Gaddafi described the Spanish North African enclave of Ceuta and Melilla as "Arab cities" at a Press conference in Majorca last week.

The remarks caused a storm of protest in Spain, which has held the cities, little more than garrison towns and claimed by Morocco since the 16th century.

## VIETNAM 'SUB THREAT'

By DESMOND WETTERN Naval Correspondent

RUSSIA is stepping up military aid to Vietnam with the training of a submarine arm for the Vietnamese Navy and the delivery of more tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

For many months so old Russian Whisky-class submarine has been lying at the giant former American naval base at Cam Ranh Bay, ostensibly to provide power generation with its diesel engines.

But the size of the base is such that a submarine could generate only a fraction of the electrical power needed and, according to reports reaching Thailand, the submarine's real role is to provide basic harbour training for potential Vietnamese submarine crews.

The Whisky-class submarine at Cam Ranh Bay has been joined in recent weeks by two or three sister craft but there appear to be operational boats.

**Disruption threat**

The acquisition of submarines by Vietnam will cause profound concern in China and other South-East Asian mainland States such as Thailand, which, while buying no submarines, significantly has become the first Asian customer to buy the British-built, lightweight Sinteray.

China is pressing Moscow to end support for Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia. She also wants the reduction of Soviet forces on their common frontier plus a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

However, Zhao stressed that the different views each held on international issues would not upset the development of bilateral ties, particularly involving trade which is now thought to be worth at least \$1.5 billion (£1.2 billion) annually.

**RAPID RISE IN POPULATION**

By Our Rome Correspondent

The official 21,622 population of the Republic of San Marino, Europe's smallest and oldest state, increased yesterday when 1,400 ex-foreigners were naturalised under a law passed in March.

All of them have lived in San Marino for more than 30 years. Yesterday they took an oath of allegiance to the republic's government, the first being 88-year-old Angelo Valentini.

**ASUB No. 3**

France's third nuclear attack submarine, the Casabianca, armed with underwater-to-surface SM-39 missiles, was launched in Cherbourg at the weekend.—Reuters.

## RAF famine team in Ethiopia will enjoy festivities

By R. BARRY O'BRIEN in Addis Ababa

TWO Christmas trees have been sent out from Britain to Addis Ababa for the RAF detachment in the Ethiopian famine airlift.

One from RAF Lyneham, Wilts, was brought by Mr Stanley, Armed Forces Minister, when he visited the contingent 10 days ago.

It has been put up in the canteen of the RAF base at Addis Ababa airport.

The other has been flown out by the British branch of World Vision International, a California-based religious organisation taking part in the Ethiopian relief operation, as a gift to the R.A.F.

The British Embassy has arranged for British Diplomats and United Nations officials living in Addis Ababa with their families to have the 70 officers and men of the RAF contingent as lunch guests on Christmas Day.

But first the two Hercules C-130 transports will fly Christmas morning sorties carrying relief supplies to famine areas in North Ethiopia.

Mr Eamonn Taylor, aid co-ordinator at the British Embassy, said the loads and destinations had not yet been decided and the crews would probably not know where they were going until Christmas morning.

World Vision is using its Twin Otter aircraft to pick up British and other expatriate relief workers at famine camps tomorrow and fly them to Addis Ababa for a Christmas party.

**Kennedy visit**

Ethiopian staff at the camps will work normally on Christmas Day. Ethiopian Christians celebrate Christmas on Jan. 5 according to the Orthodox Church calendar.

Senator Edward Kennedy ended his five-day visit to Ethiopia yesterday after a three-day tour of famine areas and flew to Khartoum to see the famine and refugee crisis in the Sudan.

The Massachusetts Senator, accompanied by his son and daughter, plans to spend Christmas Day at Kassala, a Sudan border town crowded with more than 100,000 refugees from Ethiopia.

There is a measles epidemic in the town and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has described the situation as "extremely serious."

**REAGAN DECISION**

Relief aid for Sudan

DAVID SHEARS reports from Washington: President Reagan has ordered an American Air Force plane to fly famine relief supplies to Ethiopian refugees pouring into the Sudan.

A C-130 Hercules transport was the yesterday at Kassala from West Germany with portable water tanks, 5,000 blankets, medical tools and other aid for the 100,000 refugees now reported to be camping in the Eastern Sudan without water or shelter.

**\$11m AID PLEA**

JOHN ALVENS reports from Geneva: Mr Paul Harting, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, has launched an appeal for \$11 million because of a "dramatic increase" in the numbers of Ethiopians fleeing in eastern Sudan, over 10,000 in recent weeks. The fund would be used to buy food, tents, blankets, water-storage equipment and 100,000 doses of measles vaccine.

**6 ARAB TERROR SUSPECTS HELD**

By Our Jerusalem Correspondent

Six suspected Arab terrorists have confessed to preparing an attack against the United States embassy in Tel Aviv, Israeli police said yesterday.

The attack was foiled by the security services and the six were arrested. They are also suspected of planning attacks against Israeli road traffic.

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## The Saudi Arabian National Guard Office

Announces the intention of a Governmental Department in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to fill certain appointments with highly qualified, exceptionally well experienced persons.

The successful candidates will receive a salary commensurate with their qualifications, experience and the position of the post, free medical treatment and other benefits, including housing, transport, and other facilities, and will be required to reside in Saudi Arabia.

**MS 1 Biomedical Engineering Specialist**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree (preferably in Biomedical Engineering, Electrical or Electronic Engineering).  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of eight years experience in a supervisory position in a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 2 Consultant on Employment & Human Resources**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Personnel Management or Business Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the personnel section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 3 Consultant on Medical Supply & Procurement**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Business Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical supply and procurement section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 4 Public Health Specialist**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** Graduate of an accredited medical school with a Master of Public Health in Preventive Medicine.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the public health section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 5 Consultant on Medical Education**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical education section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 6 Consultant on Medical Research**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical research section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 7 Consultant on Medical Equipment**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical equipment section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 8 Consultant on Medical Facilities**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical facilities section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 9 Consultant on Medical Services**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical services section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 10 Consultant on Medical Administration**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical administration section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 11 Consultant on Medical Finance**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical finance section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 12 Consultant on Medical Law**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical law section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 13 Consultant on Medical Ethics**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical ethics section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 14 Consultant on Medical History**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical history section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 15 Consultant on Medical Geography**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical geography section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 16 Consultant on Medical Meteorology**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical meteorology section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 17 Consultant on Medical Botany**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical botany section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 18 Consultant on Medical Zoology**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical zoology section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 19 Consultant on Medical Entomology**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical entomology section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 20 Consultant on Medical Microbiology**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical microbiology section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 21 Consultant on Medical Immunology**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical immunology section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 22 Consultant on Medical Pathology**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical pathology section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 23 Consultant on Medical Pharmacology**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical pharmacology section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 24 Consultant on Medical Therapeutics**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical therapeutics section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 25 Consultant on Medical Prognosis**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical prognosis section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 26 Consultant on Medical Prevention**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical prevention section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 27 Consultant on Medical Control**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical control section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 28 Consultant on Medical Evaluation**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical evaluation section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 29 Consultant on Medical Research**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical research section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 30 Consultant on Medical Education**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical education section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical equipment section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 32 Consultant on Medical Facilities**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical facilities section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

**MS 33 Consultant on Medical Services**  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** University Degree in Health Care Administration.  
**EXPERIENCE:** Minimum of ten years experience in a senior supervisory position in the medical services section of a hospital or other health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution, or in a similar position in a health care institution.

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## CAREERS INFORMATION

### Air traffic control

I am taking my O levels in 1985 and I would appreciate some information on air traffic control with a view to a career in this field. — C.B., Lanes.

The air traffic control officer (ATCO) controls aircraft during take-off, en route, and landing. He does this with the assistance of radar, radio, and other electronic equipment in collaboration with aircraft flightcrews.

To be eligible for training as an ATCO you must be aged 18 to 25, with GCE passes in five subjects, including English, mathematics, and physics. Two of the passes must be at A level, and one of these must be in a science subject or geography. The training of ATCOs lasts for 24 years, and includes flying instruction to private pilot's licence standard.

Air traffic control assistants help ATCOs in various ways. The minimum age limit is 17. Applicants should possess GCE O level passes or equivalent in four subjects, including English, mathematics, and either physics or a science subject.

You can get careers information by sending a s.a.e. to the Civil Aviation Authority (Personnel Services), PATC21, Room 7, 220, CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TE.

### Picture restoring

My son is taking his A levels next summer, to include history of art. He thinks of making a career in art restoration, but hard facts on the subject seem difficult to come by. — P.K.T., E. Sussex.

There are not a great many openings in art restoration, but conservators of easel paintings are employed in

musées, art galleries and in area museums services which have conservation departments. Training for the restoration of easel paintings is almost always post-graduate, and students have degrees in such subjects as fine art, history of art, or chemistry.

Whatever degree is chosen, it is essential to keep up with chemistry to A-level standard. Paints have to be analysed, and some people study such things as the history of materials and techniques, conservation

of paintings, and the history of art. The British Shipbuilding Careers Council has a booklet, "A Year in the Shipbuilding Industry", which is available on request. It contains information on the shipbuilding industry, including a list of shipbuilding companies and a list of shipbuilding careers.

Unfortunately, it is a bad time to be entering the merchant navy, which has already been cut and will be cut again within the next few years. The British Shipbuilding Careers Council has a booklet, "A Year in the Shipbuilding Industry", which is available on request. It contains information on the shipbuilding industry, including a list of shipbuilding companies and a list of shipbuilding careers.

That said, a few opportunities still exist, and minimum qualifications

for deck officers are usually four O levels, including mathematics, a physics-based science and English Language. It is unwise, however, to offer only the minimum.

The one way in which you can find out if any shipping lines are currently recruiting is by writing directly to personnel officers. You will find addresses in "The Directory of Shipowners, Shipbuilders and Marine Engineers" (IPC Industrial Publications), which should be available in the larger public libraries.

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**NEXT WEEK: Backstage in the theatre.** By John Dymun.

## Your questions answered

The Careers Information Service is maintained by Careers Intelligence. It is free to readers. Questions should be sent only to:

The Daily Telegraph Careers Information Service, 121 High Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 2DJ.

A stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed. Readers are asked to ensure their names and addresses are legible.

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## Inside job

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# Simpson

01-734 2002 PICCADILLY

SALE STARTS THURS.

27th DECEMBER

9.00am-7.00pm

| MEN                          |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| DAKS business suits          | £145-£129  |
| DAKS single breasted blazers | £145-£95   |
| DAKS trenchcoats             | £145-£99   |
| DAKS jackets                 | £129-£99   |
| DAKS trousers                | £55-£45    |
| DAKS topcoats                | £149-£135  |
| Church's shoes               | £89-£55    |
| Cashmere pullovers           | £89-£55    |
| Cotton business shirts       | £32-£21    |
| Cotton pyjamas               | £33-£19.80 |
| Ceruti suits                 | £280-£225  |
| Silk dressing gowns          | £125-£69   |
| Lorvin ties                  | £22-£10.50 |

| WOMEN                               |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| DAKS wool check skirts - HALF PRICE | £65-£32.50 |
| DAKS wool suits - HALF PRICE        | £299-£99   |
| Vicosa dresses - HALF PRICE         | £185-£89   |
| Feminella suits - HALF PRICE        | £125-£59   |
| DAKS fairisle slipovers             | £35-£21    |
| Cashmere sweaters                   | £65-£35    |
| Cashmere double-breasted coats      | £295-£269  |
| Scapa cotton blouses                | £29-£19    |
| Laurel wool skirts                  | £29-£39    |
| Lamb wool cowl neck sweaters        | £37-£25    |
| DAKS leather shoes                  | £65-£45    |

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES GREATLY REDUCED

## SALE

OPEN DAILY 9.00AM-5.30PM THURSDAYS UNTIL 7PM

### Paddy Campbell SALE

STARTS THURSDAY 27th DECEMBER

AT 8 GEE'S COURT,

ST CHRISTOPHER'S PLACE, LONDON W1

01-493 5646

(ENTRANCE OPPOSITE BOND STREET TUBE STATION)

6 17, BEAUCHAMP PLACE, LONDON SW3. 01-225 0543

CHRISTMAS turkeys will be hardly eaten before the stores tear down the decorations and turn their windows over to the traditional January sales, most of which start this Thursday, December 27.

Not so long ago, retailers used to throw up their hands in despair if their winter coats hadn't disappeared from the rails by the Lord Mayor's Show in November. In recent years, warm autumns, coupled with a trend to layered fashion (everything from big shawls to thermal underwear), mean that a winter coat is no longer the necessity it once was.

By January, however, when there's snow and frost around, there is nothing to beat a good thick overcoat and this year's crop is a vintage one, especially at well-reduced sale prices like these — some are literally halved.

Look for tweeds — particularly those in brown/oatmeal tones, for brown, tipped as this winter's top colour, is likely to take off in an even bigger way next winter. Liberty has Jimmy Hourihan's brown and multi-colour flecked Donegal tweed coat with a velvet collar reduced from £143 to £71.50.

Or splash out on fashionable winter white — an extravagance at full price, perhaps, but the sort of luxury that sales prices make more realistic. Look for a good roomy size — this year's oversized, mannish look is a classic and means that you can wear it over thick sweaters and suits, too.

Kicking off on Thursday are most of the Regent Street and Oxford Street shops like Aquascutum, Debenhams, Dickins and Jones, Liberty and Fenwick, plus Country Casuals and Jaeger branches.

Following in the next week are the big Knightsbridge sales with Harrods on January 4 and Harvey Nichols on January 5.



## Warming to a good sales buy



● Top: luxurious winter white coat with roomy shape and low-slung back belt, also in brown and black, reduced from £160 to £106. White cable-knit sweater with collar reduced from £65 to £43, also in black, red or navy, sizes 10 to 14. Both by Nicole Farhi from Harvey Nichols' sale starting January 3.

● Top, right: classic cut in brown Donegal tweed with multi-colour flecks and a black velvet collar, also in black-and-white berrington tweed, down from £143 to £71.50, in sizes 8 to 16. Red jersey blouse down from £48 to £24; both in Liberty's sale starting on Thursday.

● Right: big, mannish overcoat by Stephen Marks in oatmeal tweed, also in grey, sizes 10 to 14, reduced from £175 to £99. Cream cable-knit French Connection sweater beneath, also in red or beige, reduced from £37 to £25. Both in Fenwick's sale starting on Thursday.

● Left: seven-eighths coat, cut on slick straight lines, is in blanket grey wool in small, medium and large sizes, and is reduced to £54 from £109. Plaid skirt beneath in sizes 8 to 16 is down from £69 to £49. Both from Alexon, Conduit Street, London W1 and branches, whose sale starts on Thursday. White, angora sweater reduced from £19.95 to £12 in Fenwick's sale.

Hats from a selection in Fenwick's sale.

Pictures by KENNETH MASON



# COUNTRY CASUALS HALF PRICE SALE

## STARTS DECEMBER 27th

### Colour Co-ordinated Separates. At Half Price, - for example:

|          |        |            |
|----------|--------|------------|
| Knitwear | £19.50 | now £8.95  |
| Blouses  | £21.50 | now £9.95  |
| Skirts   | £39.00 | now £19.00 |
| Dresses  | £59.00 | now £29.00 |
| Jackets  | £65.00 | now £32.00 |

### At your local Country Casuals Shop

### See local Newspapers for Shop-in-Shop Sale Dates

OPEN 9am-5pm 22-24, 27-28, 29 & 31 DEC; 1 JAN etc.

### FUR SALE

*K West furs*

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| SUPERIOR SILVER FOX JACKET £2000                            | £1100 |
| ELEGANT BLACK LAMMA HIDE JACKET £1200                       | £650  |
| EXQUISITE RACCOON COAT £2500                                | £1250 |
| STUNNING FLOOR LENGTH WHITE MINK COAT TRIMMED WITH FOX SKIN | £2000 |
| MAGNIFICENT MODEL ALLITMAN MINK COAT £2000                  | £1000 |
| LUXURIOUS LYNN COAT £2000                                   | £1000 |
| EXQUISITE SILVER FOX COAT £2500                             | £1250 |
| MARY MOORE ROBINSON'S FUR WARDROBE FROM                     | £30   |
| MINK HATS FROM  | £35   |

A HUGE SELECTION OF OVER 400 FINE FUR COATS AND JACKETS

K WEST FURS  
21 Hudson Street  
(Corner of 153 Regent Street)  
London W1  
Tel: 01-734 0777

### SALE

Now On At  
**Jacob Gordon Ltd**  
Established 1927

London's  
Leading House  
For  
Couture Fabrics

75 Duke Street,  
London, W.1.  
01-629 5947/8.  
1 min. Bond St. Tube.

### A CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO AIR TRAVEL

by Frank Barrett

Available through leading bookshops, the Telegraph Bookshop at 150 Fleet St, price £5.95, or by post from PEARL GAT, Daily Telegraph, 135 Fleet St, London EC4 (plus 55p p&pp).

### FASHION NOTEBOOK

FANS of Bill Gibb can breathe a big sigh of relief — his clothes will be back in force very soon, relaunched with a big fashion show during the next London Fashion Week in March.

Not that Bill has ever been away for, as well as our exclusive Daily Telegraph patterns, he has been running a small but highly successful couture business for private clients over the past four years, as well as supplying Harrods.

Now, a strong consortium of private investors has formed a company called Glenciel Ltd, to give Bill the backing he so justly deserves. We will again be able to buy those wonderful wool knits (plus coordinating tweeds), high fashion ready-to-wear and couture evening clothes.

A new American business partner, Mary Toman, is the whizz kid who has gathered the city people together.

Bill himself is very excited about the new venture. "While I am proud of the individual designs I have been creating, I have felt frustrated by not being able to let a design grow," he said. "For the past few years I've always had to stop the creative flow after each design and start all over again."

A.C.

## Burberry Bargains

The Burberry Sale  
STARTS 9 a.m. THURSDAY 27th DECEMBER  
At 18-22 Haymarket,  
165 Regent Street, London  
and 64 Buchanan Street, Glasgow  
Open till 7 p.m.

Some examples of Burberry Bargains:

| For Men  | Our Current Price when perfect | Special Price* |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Classic style Weatherproof Trench style Weatherproof | £150.00                        | £110.00        |
| Mens Shirts  | £215.00                        | £160.00        |
| Sports Jackets                                       | £227.50                        | £175.00        |
| Silk Ties  | £125.00                        | £79.50         |
| For Women  |                                |                |
| Classic style Weatherproof Trench style Weatherproof | £150.00                        | £110.00        |
| Ladies Jackets                                       | £205.00                        | £155.00        |
| Burberry Check Skirts (various styles)               | £125.00                        | £89.50         |
| Blouson Jackets                                      | £82.50                         | £52.50         |
|  | £110.00                        | £65.00         |

25% Reduction on all Men's and Ladies Top Coats  
Generous reductions in all departments including Burberry Check accessories and shoes from Church at Barbours.

\*Some of our merchandise offered at a special price may be imperfect.  
Our free personal shopping service is not available on Sale merchandise.  
PERSONAL SHOPPERS ONLY. ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

## Burberrys

18-22 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4DP. Telephone 01-930 3343  
165 Regent Street, London W1R 6AS. Telephone 01-734 4050  
64 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 3JE. Telephone 041-221 6222



**GLAMOUR** dressing for Christmas and other winter parties is easiest to come by with something black and bare but that creates practical problems, unless you can guarantee spending all your festive time amid central heating of holhouse proportions.

A more covered-up, cosy Christmas look sounds as if it might lose out on the glamour content but, this year, the shops are awash with glitter, soft cashmere and multi-layered silk satin which look wonderfully luxurious as well as keeping you warm.

The glitter comes primarily from jewellery: this year's baubles are some of the biggest, brightest and most obviously fake ever. Use plain crystal or diamanté to bring life and contrast if your party dress is a safe, plain black; and an extra crystal colour such as fiery red if you are more daring. The bright, multi-coloured crystal mixes look wonderful teamed with the mixed prints of brocade and Paisley silk that the young love for evening this winter, often in the form of mao-styled pyjamas.

Fenwick has a beautiful, sophisticated version in soft Paisley silk with soug quilted shawl collar and cuffs on the smoking jacket, to team with a plain royal blue camisole — expensive at £195, but a good investment. The store also has inexpensive glass jewellery in a vivid, royal blue to match.

But the glitter comes on clothes, too, most originally as great chunks of crystal, appliqued with sequins and ribbons on to big, plain sweatshirts — great, worn with stirruped ski pants if you want to look casual yet glamorous at the same time.

There are also sweater dresses and jumpers with plenty of Lurex glints, often in subtle shades like bronze and teamed with angora yarn for a subtler, more sophisticated look than the evening knits of recent years. The knit style goes further for parties this year: that old classic cashmere is a hot favourite, cut loose and simple and in the most innocuous cream or pastel. But team it quite unconventionally, with a flounced taffeta or even lace and taffeta skirt and really big crystal or pearl jewellery.

Notwithstanding these ideas, classic black will still be many people's choice. Velvet, often trimmed with satin, is the season's top fabric.



● Left: scarlet sweatshirt appliqued with crystal clusters and black satin ribbon sprinkled with sequins by Syria, £65 from SJS department at Simpsons, London SW1; red jersey ski-pants by French Connection, £12-95 from Fenwick, London W1; black, red and white diamanté snake jewellery from a selection at Butler and Wilson, Fulham Road, London SW5.

● Below: palest shell pink cashmere sweater, from a selection at N. Paul, Burlington Arcade, London W1, from £85; black lace over white taffeta full skirt by Menth, £26-99 from Aiders and Wallis branches; pinky baroque pearls by Pellini, £45 from Harrods, London SW1 and Liberty, London W1; pearl earrings from Fenwick, £3-95.

## Glamour without the goose-pimples



Pictures by ANTHONY MARSHALL

● Far left: black wool crepe kite-shaped shift dress with geometric glitter and sequin inserts and summat lamé fan, by Berndt Berger, £155 from Simpsons, London SW1; jewellery from Butler and Wilson.

### Eric Hill

**WINTER SALE STARTS 2nd JAN.**  
Send 15p stamp for brochure of over 50 ladies' quality fashions from £14-95. Sizes 12-26 in Wool, Cotton, and more at very, very reasonable prices.  
Also New Spring colour catalogue will be sent FREE when available. Shoppers Welcome on/ after 2nd January.  
1712 Eric Hill Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 3JG.

**London's Most Fabulous Fur Sale**  
Starts December 27th

For a limited period the Zhivago range of top quality furs are being sold at incredibly low prices.

Mink coats from £1,650  
Mink jackets reduced from £890 to £595  
Blue Fox coats reduced from £900 to £395  
Fox jackets reduced from £995 to £495  
Coyote jackets reduced from £950 to £495  
Any Mink garments will be taken in part exchange.

You'll find Zhivago at 2 Portman Square, W1, just north of the junction of Wigmore Street and Baker Street, walking distance from Bond St, Baker St, and Marble Arch tubes.

Zhivago will be open all day New Year's day.

**ZHIVAGO**  
2 Portman Square, London W1M 6PS Tel: 01-335 5093



### ON THE ROCKS

**MOST** original Christmas presents to date, the deodorant that you can keep in with your bathroom shelf collection. In fact it doesn't look like a deodorant at all but just like the lump of natural crystalline alunitic rock that it actually is.

You simply wet it in hot water and use it just like any other deodorant. Already a huge success on the Continent, Alun rock crystal has no perfume or other additives and is hypo-allergenic too.

Available at major department stores at £7-99.

A.C.

**TULLEYS OF CHELSEA**

**SALE DEC 27 TO FEB 2**

\* Hundreds of Upholstery bargains \* Reproduction Furniture too  
Brochure and Sale Leaflet from TULLEYS OF CHELSEA  
Dept SS, 238-237 Fulham Rd, London SW10. Tel: 01-352 1078  
Also at Guildford Tel: 64643; Salisbury Tel: 23890; Plymouth Tel: 67229; Bristol Tel: 273476

## FENWICK SALE THURSDAY

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## REVEALED UNTO BABES

"IF NECESSARY," said Mr SCARGILL last summer, "we will stay out until Christmas." It seemed, at the time, a sample of typical Scargillian rodomontade. Surely, everyone said, moderates within the union would seize control and impose a settlement long before then; or, alternatively, surely no government could hold out against the miners' resolve. Either way, the strike could not last. All such predictions have long since foundered on the twin rocks constituted by Mrs THATCHER, in her celebrated role as immovable object, and Mr SCARGILL (though somewhat less convincingly) as irresistible force. The miners, though weaker now, have not collapsed; and the Prime Minister is further than ever from defeat.

Meanwhile the bitterness has grown. Extraordinary violence has been seen on the picket lines. Miners have been brutally attacked, and their families intimidated. And now, Christmas is here. It will be a bleak one for the striking miners and their families, a fact in which no one should rejoice. It would surely require an unusually Scrooge-like disposition to begrudge miners' children the gifts wellwishers have collected for them: we may be convinced that their fathers have no one but themselves to blame for continuing to support a bigoted and politically motivated leadership; nevertheless it is not the striking miners, but those who have misled them, who are "the enemy within." However unpopular the strike, however deeply against the national interest, the strikers remain within the national family.

The backdrop of Christmas has a way of rendering starkly and unsentimentally clear the extent of the political and moral disorders which are seen against it. That the miners' strike should be taking place as Christmas celebrates the birth of Almighty God as a tiny child, does not merely provide a certain pathos as we think of the miners' children who will have fewer toys this year. It renders doubly tragic the violence and the self-will which have flowed out of the strike itself.

More tragic yet, beyond all comparison more tragic, is the Ethiopian famine. "Don't they know it's Christmas?" asks the pop group whose record, "Feed the World," is in aid of the Ethiopian victims, has soared to the top of the charts. But here, too, as in the miners' strike, we have to do more than simply unlock seasonal good will if we are to penetrate the deep causes of the problem. As our generosity is tapped, we should not forget the homing sprites carried out (at ruinous expense) against the Eritrean rebels, or the Ethiopian government's own responsibility as a prime cause of the famine itself. We must not accept the implication that Third-World starvation is necessarily the result of Western greed and selfishness (and this is not to say that we ever have reason for complacency in such matters). But, however we apportion responsibility for these and the countless other tragedies which daily unfold on this tortured planet one fact, surely, stands out clearly: that there really does seem to be something very badly wrong with the human race, which cannot simply be explained away by talking about psychological neurosis or political and economic oppression.

We are deeply flawed beings who can only begin to learn to live with our imperfect nature by being aware of the fact. This, as well as the more widely acceptable "Peace on Earth," is the message of Christmas. The Christ Child, in his humility and vulnerability, accuses and convicts human violence and self-will: there can be no peace on earth without penitence first. The Christian analysis, in the end, is the true one: the root cause of the world's human evils (small and great) is human sinfulness.

And it is to free us from that sinfulness within ourselves, Christians believe, that God was born: Man in Bethlehem. We are liberated, not in the first place from political structures or oppression, but from sin and death. And we are born, not to achieve perfect happiness here on earth, but eternal life with God in the world to come. It is a belief which is sometimes difficult for the modern world, still in the grip of the fast disintegrating Victorian myth of endless human mastery and progress, to comprehend. But through the centuries it has given men and women courage and vision; and it is the root of all authentic Christian teaching. It is that deep truth of which the Christian Church is the guardian.

What, then, are we to make of the present exercise of that guardianship by so many of those to whom it is entrusted? It is not too much to say that there has not been within living memory such great dissatisfaction among ordinary Anglicans with the appointed defenders of their faith as now exists. Most obviously of all, they seem to talk too much about politics without any particular Christian basis for their analyses and to believe too little of what has always been supposed to be the Christian revelation.

This dissatisfaction has been, during the past year, effectively focused on the person of the Rt Rev. DAVID JENKINS. There were 14,000 signatures on a petition to the Archbishop of York against his consecration as Bishop of Durham; it was an extraordinary phenomenon, dismissed in an equally extraordinary way by the Archbishop with the words, "Some people are so glibly they will sign anything." It is, perhaps, above all the blinkered elitism revealed by these words which is the real source of the remoteness from reality of many of the present bench of bishops. Most of them have never run a parish. For all their fine talk about "communication," they simply do not understand how to talk to ordinary people and Bishop JENKINS himself appears almost to despise them; he is prepared endlessly and tortuously to lecture, but never, apparently, to listen and to learn.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, by contrast, has shown a great willingness to learn and to respond to disquiet within the Church. His Christmas message contains the following admirable and lucid reply to Bishop JENKINS's pretensions: "When all is said and done, at the heart of our faith there lies the mystery which is just as accessible to the simple as to the sophisticated." But there is more. In the words of Jesus Himself: "I thank thee, O Father, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes." In the end, the only way for Christian faith is simply to kneel before the Christ Child, with the words spoken by Thomas the doubter to the risen Christ on our lips: "My Lord and my God."



## COMMENTARY

T. E. Utley

AT CHRISTMAS, one writes either about God or ghosts. When I was a young man, I used to work for THE TIMES (another newspaper published in London). It was part of my duty to write the annual Christmas leader.

Now THE TIMES, whatever it may have been at various points in its history, was not at this time, in the ecclesiastical sense, an establishment newspaper. Its Christmas leader, as I remember it, used in those days to be a carefully drafted diplomatic convention, which had to be widely examined before publication and approved by the representatives of various denominations on the staff.

There was Mr Iverach McDonald, a stout Presbyterian, Mr Stanley Morrison, a rather extreme Papist, and even (though he may not have been taken into direct consultation) Mr Kent (the "Manager"), a Plymouth Brother.

This is not to mention my greatest friend at that stage of my career—Horner, the Editor's driver. He could drive from the gates of Printing House Square to those of All Souls in 45 minutes flat, not only preserving himself and his passengers intact but also preventing several other accidents which might have occurred through unimproved careless driving. He once confided to me, on this question of the Christmas leader, that "the trouble with this office, Sir, is too much chapel."

What I remember most about the exercise, however, is an annual letter I used to receive from a sort of inverted religious fanatic—a reborn atheist, resident (I would judge from his extraordinary literacy) in some expensive lunatic asylum in the south east counties. Once, I recall, his letter began with these words: "Sir, I see you have used Christmas once again as a pretext for mentioning Jesus Christ."

Still conscious of this admonition, I shall write about ghosts, and particularly about the disgusting inequalities which this supposedly civilised and humane society still tolerates in respect of the distribution of opportunities for post-humous apparition and intervention in our affairs.

Let me make my position clear: I regard the opportunity for such appearances and interventions as a privilege rather than a punishment. I do not take Hamlet's father's view. For example, I regard it as impossible though barely conceivable, that when I have been long below the sod, this newspaper will develop policies on subjects dear to my heart which I cannot approve. In those circumstances, I should like to be free to make some judicious intrusion—an apparition before the Editor at some critical moment; if that fails, a little mischief on the stone (for which there must be precedents), and failing that, some poltergeist activity in the local hostelry.

This matter of the gross inequality which now disfigures our society's arrangements in relation to supernatural phenomena was first brought to my attention by a gentleman who, some years ago, mounted a campaign in favour of more working class ghosts, observing correctly, that, in this class-ridden community of ours, ghosts are drawn almost exclusively from the ranks of the rich and privileged.

But, to my mind, there is an even more damaging injustice: it is the almost total absence from our affairs (at least so far as I can judge, on the basis of extremely inadequate research) of political ghosts.

Not even Spencer Perceval (a Prime Minister murdered in the lobby of the House of Commons) haunts the place. Some fire watchers during the war did hear a strange noise in Westminster Hall, but it was proved to have been produced by a pigeon in the rafters. A good story about Churchill, shortly after his appointment as Prime Minister in 1940, having received valuable counsel from his long-lamented father, is sharply dismissed by Dr Martin Gilbert.

Yet politicians, who are so apt to rise from their purely political graves to give romanticised versions of what Britain was like in their day, must surely pine for posthumous activity, particularly as their names are so often taken in vain by their successors. There is a case for a right of reply.

Ghosts are, by nature, diffident. All they need is a little judicious encouragement from a quango with a small subsidy, which could be prudently supplied by cutting the money now spent on discouraging sexual and racial discrimination. Years ago, I had the distinct impression that Edmund Burke's statue outside Trinity, Dublin, extended a hand to me in a warm embrace; but my 10-year-old daughter who accompanied me failed to corroborate: indeed, described my account of the matter as "a frig lid."

Not that I have not seen a ghost in the most incontrovertible circumstances. I did so many years ago and shortly afterwards went blind; but, "these are matters of which I shall not speak on this side of the grave" or, at any rate, until this column is faced by an even thinner day than today.

The Irish Information Partnership has written to offer me a regular supply of highly accurate and thorough information about all aspects of Irish affairs. My confidence in its offer would have been even greater than it is had it not been addressed to "Mr Charles Utley, Editor of THE DAILY TELEGRAPH".

## Christmas quiz



The top rank are all winners in 1984, the bottom row all losers. Why do the faces fit into these categories and who are they?

## Who, what, which, where, why, how?

- (1) Who was "imprisoned, drugged and tortured" by the British security services—yet acquired a sun tan in the process?
- (2) What caused a woefully diplomatic incident in the suburbs?
- (3) Why was 300 tons of whisky a sobering thought?
- (4) What damage did Jupiter do on a visit to London?
- (5) Which modern-day Job missed out on the bolts but took out full-page ads for help?
- (6) Who got re-elected then lost a seat?
- (7) How did a green dog have his collar felt?
- (8) All ex-Cabinet Ministers wined up in a box; which one did prematurely?
- (9) Whose unguarded secret led to three months away from it all—and three offers of marriage?
- (10) Strikes and violence seem to have gone together this year in Britain, but where did threats end a strike?
- (11) Who linked herself with a prince in print?
- (12) Who linked himself with a princess to fun?
- (13) There was this story about the politician, the seed merchant, and the gamkeeper, and the report was heard throughout the country: who was the politician?
- (14) Who over went to one, but got a close relative into difficulty by setting one built?
- (15) What made 1984 (a) a bad year for mermaids, (b) a good year for mermaids?

## Quotes: Who said this year...?

- (1) This was the day I was not meant to see.
- (2) The question is not should we break the law but which law should we obey?
- (3) The Archbishop of Canterbury is a very religious man.
- (4) I won't be photographed with that over-made-up tart.
- (5) What is proposed is a monstrous caricature on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend.
- (6) The history of mankind is littered with debris of men who have acted more stupidly than any one would have thought possible at the time.
- (7) I am very sorry you got painted.
- (8) I wouldn't put it past God to

arrange a Virgin Birth if he wanted. But I don't think He did.

(9) I am not going to put myself in the position of saying where and when there has been divine intervention.

(10) I am not one of your local characters. I don't vote here—I vote in Florida.

(11) Capitalism still possesses quite substantial and far from exhausted reserves.

(12) The saddest thing in my life was when I discovered that people can get their freedom from colonial masters and find themselves unfree.

(13) I would feel desperate if I had been without a good regular income for 20 weeks.

(14) I have never to my knowledge sold a piece of scrubbed pine furniture.

(15) The Press should take a lesson from the under-10s—it might learn something.

(16) I'm just a girl who runs.

(17) Throughout this dispute the attitude you have displayed has been diabolical.

(18) There is no such phenomenon as a slight case of totalitarianism.

They took their

last bow in 1984

The past year took a heavy toll of entertainers of one kind or another. Of those who died, the way I'd want to go, I hope I go when I'm getting up from my armchair to turn off the TV when Bernard Manning's on."

(1) said: "That's not the way I'd want to go, I hope I go when I'm getting up from my armchair to turn off the TV when Bernard Manning's on."

(2) was born Miss Fluck.

(3) once said: "I tried to think myself into people's drawing rooms rather than address the nation."

(4) though known for his menacing performances, was a conscientious objector during the 1939-45 war.

(5) had a singing partner called Tammi Terrell, who collapsed in his arms.

(6) was a reach-me-down aristocrat and invented jump swing.

(7) had his writings described by one writer in the 1930s as exhibiting "baroque taste at its most corrupt."

(8) made an English journey 50 years ago.

(9) said: "On my tombstone they will write, 'She was a plain woman'."

(10) had received star recognition after playing a gangster chief with Hitlerian similarities.

(11) left school at 16 in help support the family and became an apprentice at a Welsh Co-op.

(12) borrowed his future trademark from a passing Cairo waiter after

someone had stolen his pith helmet?

(13) played the scientist in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," but is better known for different skills?

Excerpts from the

sporting life

(1) Who said and on what occasion: "Brandy! I favour the Guedi factor. Long after you've forgotten the price you remember the quality..."

(2) Why did Peter Hobson live to regret giving his bobbers as "scuba diving and re-shaping barges"?

(3) Who had fought the law and his coaches but fought a mountain and won?

(4) Which truant from a troubled side came close to kicking in his career for his wife's sake?

(5) Which world title won again by a British woman this year has, surprisingly, never been won by the Japanese?

(6) Who muscled in to join the big boys at Wimbledon?

(7) Which adventures with a lad and a lighthouse struck a blow for women?

(8) Which leading pair was separated by a hole with a road in it?

(9) This comment could have been made of almost any victory, but of which one was it said: "I put it down to the fact that they are an extremely talented, very strong team and fine exponents of their profession. These games have been fought in a marvellous spirit."

(10) Who made the maximum break of 147?

And finally

a look back

How many years ago did the following take place:

(1) The extension of the electoral franchise to agricultural labourers. (a) 150 years, (b) 100 years, (c) 64 years.

(2) The Gresford colliery disaster. (a) 40 years, (b) 60 years, (c) 50 years.

(3) Government control over the East India Company's rule in India. (a) 500 years, (b) 150 years, (c) 200 years.

(4) Publication of the first Christmas card. (a) 150 years, (b) 140 years, (c) 130 years.

Answers—p20

## Libyan hostages: the Queen remembers

THE QUEEN'S thoughts and prayers this Christmas will, I am sure, be going in particular to four of her subjects held as political hostages in Libya by Col. Gaddafi.

After Prince Harry's christening at Windsor on Friday, the Queen had a long conversation with Dr Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in which she closely questioned him on the progress of the mission to free them, headed by Terry Waite, his special envoy.

The Queen made clear to the Archbishop the depth of her concern about their fate. She also displayed detailed knowledge of the attempts to get them released.

Sadly, Waite's appeal to Gaddafi to let them go before Christmas has fallen on deaf ears. But Royal thoughts will be with them on Christmas Day.

Jet set

PRESIDENT REAGAN can look forward to the most expensive Christmas present in the world—a \$100 million Boeing 747 jumbo jet which is being prepared at Andrews Airforce base, California, as the new Airforce One.

News of the latest presidential aircraft was held up until after the American elections for fear of arousing public anger at its cost. But the 15-year-old Boeing 707 which the President has used as his personal jet is now, apparently, "too old and noisy" to be up to the job.

I am told that the basic \$100 million price tag only covers the basic plane. The strictly non-optional extras—chiefly communications equipment—now being added could double the cost.

I hear of a seemingly foolproof method of avoiding the Saudi Arabian censor who sometimes mangles THE DAILY TELEGRAPH. A reader has hit upon the play of looking out a subscription. As an experienced oil industry worker, he finds that oilmail copies "have always smiled through without the slightest alteration."

## Early opening

MRS THATCHER proved too impatient to wait for Christmas before opening the present President Reagan gave her at Camp David.

Inside the gold package, which she opened as her VC-10 crossed the Atlantic towards the end of her 23,000-mile round-the-world trip, was an exquisite, tiny, gold ornamental fruit bowl.

## Quartets and pints

EVEN DURING Britain's darkest and most hard-pressed times, the need for a little Christmas cheer has always shone through.

A reader reminds me that at

## LONDON DAY BY DAY

Christmas 40 years ago—the 27th week of the war—this column carried a recipe for Charles Dickens's favourite punch which I repeat:

8 sweet oranges,  
Nutmeg to cover a shilling,  
1 bottle of whisky,  
1 pint of sherry,  
1 quart of brandy,  
1½ pints of China tea,  
Rind of lemon,  
Loaf sugar.

That Christmas of shortages and few luxuries had barely run its course before a correspondent wrote in asking what a quart was. He was told that the measure was no more than a quarter of a pint. Should we owe expect letters from younger readers asking what a shilling is?

## Christmas meeting

MRS THATCHER'S customary Christmas gathering of friends and notables at Chequers has an added poignancy this year. Both Norman Tebbit, who is based there to be close to the Prime Minister, and Jimmy Savile, the hospital's chief fundraiser, will be present.

Formal thanks for the work of the hospital in treating the Tebbits in the wake of the Brighton bombing have already been said. And all the parties are surely too polite to point out that the Savile £10 million fund was set up because not enough Government funding could be found to modernise Stoke Mandeville.

## Explosive plot

THURSDAY NIGHT'S audience for the RSC's performance of "Peter Pan" at the Barbican watched spellbound as a lighted gunpowder keg, set to blow up the pirate ship, toppled slowly from its perch, rolled down the raked stage, and into the laps of the front row.

Captain Hook, played by Stephen Moore, stooped forward, asked politely: "Can we have our bomb back?"—and the prop was returned with some alacrity.

## Frayed comment

BBC RADIO'S "Today" programme appears to be amusing high passions with its annual "Man of the Year" poll this Christmas as one of its listeners from Harrow found when he submitted a postcard entry for "Silver Birch" (Chris Butcher) the Nottinghamshire-based organiser of working miners.

His card was returned to him a few days later by the Post Office, torn in half. The organisers of the poll, who have already uncovered two attempts to rig the vote with multiple returns, are drawing their own conclusions about the failure of the delivery.

## Not-so-still life

YOUNG'S BREWERY in Wandsworth has set up a most unusual



"It's not a deterrent—it's a guidance system."

Nativity crib at its headquarters, using live animals to surround the familiar human models.

The scene was set up after the brewery took charge of two donkeys left at one of the company's Young's mascot, a ram, which lives at the brewery, a goat and a couple more rams completed the picture and now browse around a crib in a shed at the brewery entrance.

The company actually had more trouble rounding up the human models than the animals. Mary and Joseph are made from window models donated by a South London department store. The two unclad life-size figures were finally taken round to Wandsworth by one of Young's employees on the Clapham bus.

## Sign design

NOEL CARRINGTON, younger brother of the Bloomsbury Group artist Dora Carrington—she organised the first exhibition of her work—celebrates his 80th birthday today.

His own achievements, particularly in the fields of publishing and design, have been considerable. He helped found the Puffin series of children's books, and he discovered Sir Peter Scott's work as a bird artist.

He is also the man who suggested, while he was a member of the Design Council, that all motorway signs should be written in their now-familiar lower-case lettering to make them more legible.

## Fire of their ways

A READER sends me a copy of a football pools advertisement in the DAILY MIRROR last week which ends: "The Pool Promoters' Association wish all their clients a merry Christmas. Not applicable in the Republic of Ireland."

PETERBOROUGH

## LETTERS

## Essentials of early literacy

SIR—Once again there has been an investigation into academic success in secondary schools; once again the most influential factor is ignored: reading attainment by age seven plus.

In Norfolk 49.7 per cent. of pupils have no examination passes as school leavers. I believe this is directly connected with the 41 per cent. who are backward in reading by age seven plus. The median reading quotient (reading age expressed as a percentage of chronological age, where 100 RQ means "keeping up") for Norfolk is 102.9 (1983).

A good school, even in a social priority area, can top 110 and even reach 115 some years. The test makes modest demands to reach 100. A good school will have between 10 per cent. and none at all below 100. Norfolk has 17.1 per cent. below 80—which is dreadful.

Inevitably, this poor start is reflected in examination results. "O" and "A" levels are low at six, not 16.

Failure in individual children has been plausibly explained away for too long by the phrase: "All children are different." We have had so much failure for so long that teachers take it for granted. Local education authority results would tell something, but they conceal best and worst in individual schools.

When infant teachers start getting it right, social class will cease to be reflected in "A" level results, and the cost of education can then be cut by a third or a quarter.

Parents and school governors should have the right to know their school's median RQ at the age of seven plus.

(Mrs) MONA MCNEE

Dereham, Norfolk

## Converting railways

SIR—I see that once again ("Tracks for Trucks" Dec 17) you are supporting the idea of converting railways into roads, a suggestion that seems at odds with your usual views on public spending. For any conversion will cost an awful lot of money. If we examine the proposal to make the Marylebone line into a "busway," experts have estimated the expenditure needed will be between £10 and £20 million per 10 miles.

Surely, therefore, it makes more sense, and incidentally will be cheaper, to seek to transfer traffic away from

Other letters, page 6

these overcrowded roads and on to these little-used railways? This is the thinking behind the present policy of the Greater London Council.

You note that nothing came of British Rail's study into rail conversions. Could this simply be that they were found to be a costly waste of time and effort?

TIMOTHY J. MICKLEBURGH

Ashurst, Warwick

## Whisky blender

SIR—Having pondered on the mystiques of whisky production for many years, I regretfully your recent correspondence does little to enlighten me.

I recall the occasion of an all-male local agricultural dinner some 40 years ago, during which one of our more illustrious members was the recipient of a competition challenge cup; a small group of us well versed to the qualities of whisky to further mark the achievement decided to accompany him home for a final highball.

It was a winter's night and his dear wife had gone on to bed but in thoughtful anticipation had left a tray of sparkling glasses with a bottle before a blazing log fire and with much gratitude and gentility we finished the bottle before going merrily on our way in the small hours.

How should we were though to subsequently discover that this ever-resourceful lady had previously removed three-quarters of the whisky and blended the remainder with weak cold tea all without detection. With experience I regard it as a jolly good medium of entertainment and treat the merits of age, origin, grain, malt, aroma etc., as incidental to the enjoyment obtained from the convivial spirit in which it needs to be taken.

JOEL GRIMES

Wotton-under-Edge, Glos.

## Family Shakespeare

SIR—Amid the dismay caused by the publication in America of an expurgated edition of Shakespeare, it is as well to remember that this is nothing new. When the eponymous Dr Thomas Bowdler published his "Family Shakespeare" in 1818, such an edition was regarded as both necessary and desirable.

The Etonian Review observed that using live animals to surround the familiar human models. The scene was set up after the brewery took charge of two donkeys left at one of the company's Young's mascot, a ram, which lives at the brewery, a goat and a couple more rams completed the picture and now browse around a crib in a shed at the brewery entrance.

The company actually had more trouble rounding up the human models than the animals. Mary and Joseph are made from window models donated by a South London department store. The two unclad life-size figures were finally taken round to Wandsworth by one of Young's employees on the Clapham bus.

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# Christmas card for Ripper angers families

By STANLEY GOLDSMITH  
RELATIVES of victims of Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, reacted angrily yesterday to disclosures that he had received a Christmas card from West Yorkshire police, the force which arrested him and which was criticised for not doing so sooner.

The card, bearing the official emblem of the force, was left by Mr Keith Hellawell, West Yorkshire Assistant Chief Constable, and a senior detective, when they visited Sutcliffe at Broadmoor last week.

Mr Hellawell has refused to discuss the visit, saying only that it was to do with inquiries into unsolved crimes.

Mrs Doreen Hill, 50, whose daughter Jacqueline, 20, was the last of Sutcliffe's victims said yesterday: "It is in bad taste and is yet another error of judgment by the West Yorkshire police in relation to the Sutcliffe murders."

Mrs Hill, of Lealholm Crescent, Ormesby, Cleveland, is suing the force for damages of almost £100,000, on the grounds that Jacqueline's murder should have been prevented.

Running the asylum  
Mrs Olive Smelt, 54, who survived a hammer attack by Sutcliffe in 1975 said at her Halifax home: "We are reaching the stage where the statistics seem to be running the asylum."

"I've never been sent a police Christmas card and this is just another in a shocking chapter concerning Peter Sutcliffe."

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Dr Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, taking time off from his ecclesiastical duties yesterday to perform the congenial task of carving a turkey to provide meals for 50 of the city's old people. The Christmas lunches were cooked by Mr Tony Larking, chef of Slatters Hotel, close to the Cathedral, and donated by Canterbury Lions Club.

## WRONG NUMBER WEDDING

By ERIC DOWD  
in Toronto  
A BRITON who telephoned a wrong number in Canada nine months ago was married in Toronto at the weekend to the girl who answered it.

Mr Sam Mayne, 26, assistant manager at the Devonshire Arms in Duke Street, Westminster, and Miss Mary MacKenzie, 29, a Canadian teacher, struck up a friendship after the call.

Conny jokes  
Mr Mayne trying to ring a friend in Canada, said: "She had a warm, generous tone to her voice and I thought it was so kind of her - most people just say you've got the wrong number, pal" and hang up. I'm not generally very impulsive.

Miss MacKenzie said: "Sam started talking and he kept on for about 20 minutes, telling me about his life and his family. The couple met in the summer, and are to live in Canada."

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## Man-made 'Star of Bethlehem' Son of model in Bloomingdale affair awarded £170,000

By IAN BALL in New York  
A MAN-MADE comet will be streaking across the skies tomorrow as part of a United States-British-West German study of how solar winds interact with the Earth's magnetic field.

The artificial comet will be created by chemicals to be ejected from a West German satellite 70,000 miles above the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Peru at 12.18 p.m. GMT.

The choice of Christmas Day for the comet was not meant to elicit comparisons with the Star of Bethlehem, the project scientists say. Dec 25 just happened to be the best day this year for ground and satellite observation.

A real comet consists of a frozen ball of dust and gas trailing a tail of loose atoms and particles. The man-made comet will look to earthlings just like the real thing even though its composition is quite different.

Cloud of barium  
The Christmas comet will actually be a cloud of barium, the metallic element used in another form to make the digestive tract visible under X-rays.

The sun will energise the barium atoms and make them radiate coloured light.

If pre-dawn skies are clear in their areas, people living along the western coasts of South and Central America and in islands in the eastern Pacific should have a spectacular view.

The viewing areas will be Mexico, the western United States and Canada. It will not be visible in Britain or anywhere in Europe.

Scientists said that stargazers' first glimpse of the man-made comet will be in a colourful speck of light - a star with a yellowish-brown centre and green rings.

The newcomer to the heavens will then grow in size and turn purplish-green.

About 200 scientists, technicians and pilots will be working on the project on Christmas Day. It will usher in what scientists are talking of as 'the year of the comets.'

This artificial comet will help astronomers fine-tune an array of instruments being assembled for the appearance of comet Giacobini-Zinner next autumn and Halley's Comet during the winter of 1985-86.

The three countries are spending millions on the study of solar winds, the electrically charged gases that leave the sun at speeds of almost a million miles an hour. The solar winds' interaction with Earth's magnetic field creates the Northern Lights.

BACK ON DUTY  
By Our Crime Staff  
PC Harrison Westgate, acquitted of attacking a schoolboy with a truncheon while attending a brawl in Wedmore Street, Upper Holloway, with 12 other officers in July, 1982 has been returned to full police duties.

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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, Monday, December 21, 1981 13



## INVESTMENT &amp; BUSINESS

City Editor

Andreas Whittam Smith

Daily Telegraph  
City Office  
112 Queen Victoria Street  
London EC4A 4BS  
Tel: 01-353 4242U.S. Chase  
gives oil  
forecast  
the go by

LAST week's indecisive meeting by the Opec ministers in Geneva is only the latest in a series of signals that the world petroleum markets are well beyond the cartel's control.

Industrial energy consumers and government economists alike share a level of uncertainty about what 1985 will bring for the price of oil and gas and for their major producers. One of the traditional authorities about world energy trends is in the same dilemma.

Chase Manhattan Bank, through its long association with Exxon and other producers, probably has the best intelligence gathering and analysis capability aside from the major producers themselves. Through its Chase Energy Economics service, the bank's annual forecast of oil and gas supply and price trends is an eagerly awaited event at about this time each year.

"We are not issuing a formal forecast this year; that is how uncertain the situation is. It is too uncertain to say whether prices are going to hold or not. A lot depends on inventory levels and a lot of that depends on expectations and external

THE  
AMERICAN  
INTERVIEW

forces such as the weather," says David Behling, head of Chase Energy Economics.

The Harvard P.D. economist took over the division last year after having come to it in 1978 from the government's Energy Research and Development Administration. It was while he was at ERDA that Mr Behling built his reputation around an economic model that forecast energy price and supply variables.

But, even with that expertise, Mr Behling and Chase do not want to hazard a guess at the price trends of 1985.

"To understand our reluctance you have to understand what happened in 1984. The surplus of 1984 included a 700,000 barrels per day greater level of production from non-Opec sources than we had expected."

"A lot of that came from Canada, some more from the United States and the rest from the Far East," Mr Behling explained.

"The other big change this year is that we expected the inventory stocks of petroleum to be rebuilt. Stocks had really been run down, largely due to an anticipation that prices will drop."

"That misreading of inventory trends cost us another 800,000 barrels per day that we had expected to be absorbed by demand but which were not. So in all we ended up with roughly 1.5 million barrels per day that were not absorbed."

"In fairness there was higher demand than expected, too. But that was primarily a case of one-time factors that aren't continuing. There was a very cold winter last year, but it has been warm so far this winter."

The United States economy grew rapidly last winter, then slowed that growth quite a bit. The coal strike in Britain has had its effect and we won't be able to judge the impact of that for some time to come."

"Right now our growth expectation for next year is about half what we had this year, and that means that oil prices depend on the two chief factors—inventory behaviour and the willingness of Opec to limit production in the face of severe pressure on each of the member (and allied) countries."

"My own belief is that the free world will see annual economic growth in 1984 averaging something like 4 p.c. Next year we will see a little less than 3 p.c. growth on average, the primary force being the sharp decline in the United States economic growth rate. That in turn will translate into lower growth in demand for oil—the demand will grow but more slowly," says Mr Behling.

James Srodes

Guinness buys  
grocery chain  
in £12m deal

By JOHN RUDOLFSKY

ARTHUR Guinness and Sons, which already owns the Lavells and the Martin chain of newsagents and tobacconists, is moving into the grocery trade with the £12 million acquisition of Neighbourhood Stores.

The deal is expected to lead to a new outbreak of competition in secondary shopping sites which the major grocery retailers have deserted in favour of their superstore developments.

It may also mark a major change in the look of local shopping parades since Neighbourhood, trading under the "Eleven" name, has adopted an American-style shopping concept which is already growing fast here and in other countries.

Earlier this month the three-cornered battle for Cullen's Stores ended in victory for three ex-Imperial Group executives, who also a similar facility for their 95-strong chain into early opening and late closing convenience stores.

The sudden emergence of new competition that persuaded David Linnell, 54, Neighbourhood's chairman, to accept the Guinness offer and its financial backing less than three years after forming the company.

Guinness is offering five of its shares for every two Neighbourhood shares. The terms are worth 30p per Neighbourhood share and with the backing of directors and certain institutions, 65 p.c. of the equity is already committed to the offer.

Neighbourhood has more than 200 shareholders who bought stock at 210p in a £4.2 million business expansion scheme offer in July last year.

Sterling - P & O link  
likely in January

By BRUCE KINLOCH

THE anticipated £700 million merger between Sterling Guarantee Trust and Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company is expected to be announced in January.

Some stockbrokers close to the company claim that all leave for senior staff has already been cancelled for a period just after the New Year.

It is clear that the timing of any merger rests more on the share price of the two companies rather than on other factors. As with all mergers it will be essential that there is a correct balance between the share price of Sterling Guarantee and P &amp; O at the time the deal is struck.

Sterling Guarantee paid £31 million to Trafalgar House for its 7 p.c. stake in P &amp; O last September. The shares of Sterling have moved up sharply from 50p to 65p, while those of P &amp; O have levelled off marginally to 30p.

Jeffrey Sterios, chairman of both companies, will be at great pains to ensure that terms of any merger are favourable to all shareholders.

## UK waits for Opec move

By ROLAND GRIBBEN

OIL ministers from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries were continuing their latest discussion with their heads of government over the weekend to tighten production controls and avoid a price cut.

But market observers and analysts were arguing that crucial decisions on prices. But the British National Oil Corporation has already signalled that it will have little option but to reduce prices next month and is understood to have cut rates for its remaining contract customers.

Britain is waiting anxiously to assess the outcome of the Opec manoeuvres before making crucial decisions on prices. But the British National Oil Corporation has already signalled that it will have little option but to reduce prices next month and is understood to have cut rates for its remaining contract customers.

This is the seventh year of what has proved to be an extremely popular competition. Every month we will be publishing regular reports on the progress of the race.

As prizes there will be at least 100 bottles of champagne with magnifying for the outright winners. The reader or readers who nominate the winning share will each be sent a bottle. Then those nominating the second-best share... and so on.

In the 1984 competition 106 readers nominated one of the 13 best shares and each received a bottle of champagne. A lunch was held for the prize-winners at which Alex Fletcher, the Consumer Affairs Minister, made the presentation.

Any one of our readers can hope to do well. The outright winner this time was a 23-year-old business studies student from Ruislip. The runners-up

included an unemployed lady now taking an Open University degree, a nurse from St Bartholomew's Hospital in the City, a Peterborough housewife and a trainee computer programmer.

We would like to hear from people for whom investment is an occasional hobby as well as from those whose work involves financial matters.

STARTING POINT  
TO: THE DAILY TELEGRAPH Share Race, 110 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 4BSMy share of the year is  
Name and Address and telephone number  
Tel: Please mark your envelope "Competition."

## LOMBARD STREET

## NOT AT A LOSS FOR WORDS

By Christopher Fildes

THE CITY of London is to celebrate the bicentenary of Samuel Johnson by commissioning a dictionary of its own. The project, to be announced early in April next year, is already assured of support from sources as diverse as the Stock Exchange and the Bullion Dealers Mutual Aid Fund. Arthur Young McClelland Moore has generously offered to qualify the accounts free of charge.

A steering committee under Martin Jacob has decided, by a majority—David Hopkinson dissenting—to entrust the work to the prominent financial lexicographer Dr Lombard Street.

I am standing on giants' shoulders," says Dr Street. It was, he points out, Johnson himself who defined "Stockjobber" as "A low wretch, who gets money by buying and selling shares in the Funds," citing a quatrain from Swift:

The stockjobber thus from  
Change Alley goes down,  
And tips you the freeman's wink:  
Let me have but your role to  
serve for the town,  
And here is a guinea to drink.

The City's scholar of today, Dr Street believes, must contend with a language or languages whose relationship to English is inconsistent and frequently misleading. That relationship may be as close as a code: "trouled"—"hust," "controversial"—"promoter of the above."

At the further extreme is Threadneedle, which, despite superficial resemblances, may not be an Indo-European language at all.

Poring over the texts, Dr Street has concluded that Threadneedle, must be read, not vertically like Japanese, nor from right to left like Arabic, nor like most Western languages along the lines, "but between them."

This has led him to redefine such words as "interest" and "forecast." Thus, "no domestic reason why interest rates should rise" means "they are going through the roof for some other reason," and "our forecasts and the Treasury's are within each others' margins of error" means "I know it's Christmas, but this is ridiculous." Over the crucifixion "public" ("no public money is involved"). Dr Street is still puzzling.

The City dictionary will distin-

guish between different tribal speech patterns and also between stages in those patterns' development. For example, Dr Street's working definition of "names,"

Names, n. pl.:

1. (Bill-broking). The parties to a bill of exchange. "Two good names on a bill lend lustre to each other."—Gillett.
2. (Lloyd's). A source of income.
3. (Lloyd's). A source of yachts, villas, impressionists, etc.—(Obs?).
4. (Fund management). Either the fund manager or his fund, depending on the subsequent performance of the share being bought. "Names later, old boy."—Dawson.

Other definitions finding their way into Dr Street's notebook include:

- Account:
1. (Stockbroking). A limited period of profit, followed by a longer period of loss. "This one will run, this account."—We're

fattenig it up, and there's a rights issue round the corner.

2. (Auditing). A true and fair view, or one such. See also "watchdog," "bloodhound."

Core: (Fund management). Unsaleable. "Core holding" = Our brokers forgot to get us out. See also "long-term."

Demand: (Stockbroking). Supply. "Foreign investment demand" = We are selling all we've got to the Americans.

Goodwill: (Accountancy). The amount by which what you paid for something exceeds what the people who sold it you thought it was worth. "This is the season of goodwill."—Barkshire.

Long-term: 1. (Discount market). Tea-time.

2. (Stockbroking). Boring. "The shares are a long-term hold" = We are brokers to the company. "This year, next year, some time, long-term."—City counting rhyme.

Opportunist: (Merchant banking). Inopportune. "Reject this opportunist bid" = Our side was caught with its dividends down. See also "unwelcome."

P.A.: 1. (Joint-stock banking). business bureaucracies to general. A secretary who has outgrown the pay-scale.

2. (Fund management). Personal account. See "names, 4." But: This is one for you, P.A., not for your clients. = We are so desperate to sell this stock that we'll tell you anything.

Speculative: (Investment). Well-informed. "Jobbers reported speculative buying in a thin market" = Whetnall.

Unauthorised: (Banking). Loss-making. "Losses were due to unauthorised bond trading."—Bear Sterns. "Nobody authorised me to get it wrong."—Buer. (Note by Dr Street: Is there any recorded instance of an unauthorised profit?)

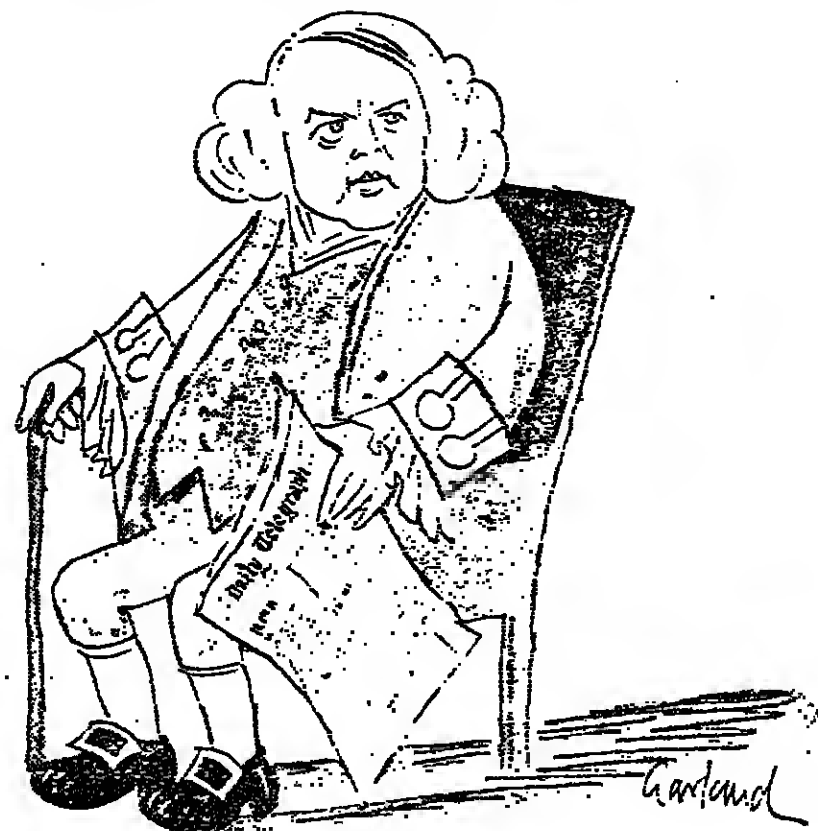
Unwelcome: (Bids and deals). Welcome, except to the directors. "This unsolicited and unwelcome approach" = Thank goodness we fixed up those service contracts.

Weakness: see "weakness."

Strength: "Continue to accumulate on weakness" = Who, us? Even as he sets out on the long path of scholarship, Dr Street knows that he may be overtaken from Brussels. Pending the development of a compulsory Common Market language (or Euro-speranto), the commission is working on a draft directive which will standardise all financial terms. Some City words will find themselves, outside the regulations, all others must be matched to their opposite numbers in Italian—and soon Portuguese.

Siamo accanto all'azione = Anoraximinos n' accmo = We at Shinn &amp; Buckett are pretty close to the share.

Such is lexicography, say Dr Street. Language develops, languages rise and fall. Johnson himself hoped no more for his Dictionary than that it would live longer to that which nature forbids to be immortal. Lexicographer he defined as "A writer of dictionaries: a harmless drudge."



Dr Street: A harmless drudge

Ritblat sells Stock  
Conversion stake

CITY speculation that John Ritblat's British Land Company was poised to bid for Stock Conversion appears to be unfounded.

Mr Ritblat said yesterday that he had sold the one million shares he picked up recently. "We made a good profit on them," he said.

At the beginning of December Stock Conversion's shares were priced at 40p but the speculation, which followed the death of former chairman Robert Clark at the end of November, sent the shares to a new peak of 43p at Friday's stock market close.

British Land's name was linked with Stock Conversion because of its close association with Euston Centre Properties, a company which owns a vast office complex near Euston Station in London and is held by the two companies on a 50-50 basis.

Maxwell revises  
Rediffusion deal

ROBERT MAXWELL has negotiated a £2 million reduction to £9 million in the price he will pay for British Electric Traction's Rediffusion cable TV interests.

The deal includes the Guildford cable network licence and Home Office approval has been granted.

Mr Maxwell's acquisition vehicle, however, is a new British company called Metromode, specifically set up for the deal, rather than Pergamon Press as originally intended.

Pergamon is ultimately controlled from Liechtenstein.

Simplex GE in  
£27.5m buyout  
from U.S. parent

CANOVER INVESTMENTS has organised a £27.5 million management buyout of Simplex GE from the General Electric Company of America.

The group makes electrical control and installation equipment used by heavy industry. Simplex has several factories in England and Scotland and made pre-interest profits of almost £6 million in 1983 on £43.6 million sales.

Electra, Globe and Investors in Industry are among the British institutional backers of the deal.

Liquidations at  
three-year high

COMPANY liquidations last month reached their highest level for more than three years, according to latest figures from the Department of Trade and Industry.

The number going out of business is provisionally estimated at 1,542 against 1,502 in October and 1,411 to November last year.

Overall, in the first 11 months company liquidations were running 4 p.c. ahead of the corresponding period last year. They totalled 12,819 against 12,352.

The rate of increase in bankruptcies over last year is even higher. Over the 11-month period they rose by more than 8 p.c. from 5,566 to 7,119.

Trading stamps plan  
gathers momentum

By DAVID GREEN

A BID to revive trading stamps through a link with investment trust Bonusbond Holdings is gathering pace, with around 100 petrol stations signing up since last month.

The organisers are confident that once Christmas and the New Year holiday are over recruitment on the forecourts and among other retailers will accelerate rapidly.

The scheme is being launched by promotions specialist Don Marketing through a specially formed subsidiary, The Trading Stamp Company.

But the difference in this attempt to bring back trading stamps is the tie-up with Bonusbond and its well-established employee incentive vouchers which can be spent at 10,000 stores up and down the country.

This cuts out the costly network of redemption centres that had to be established by previous operators of trading stamps.

Britalco's best known stamps, Green Shield, went into rapid decline after Tesco dropped them in 1977 in favour of straight price cutting. But Green Shield was quick to transform its centres into branches of the rapidly expanding Argos catalogue showroom chain.

Among the retail chains accepting Bonusbonds, available to denominations of £1, £5, £10

and £25, are Austin Reed, Bejam, Boots, Debenhams, HPC, John Lewis, Marks &amp; Spencer, Rumbelows, H. Samuel and Woolworth.

Don Marketing is behind the promotional games on offer on Shell forecourts and is in talks with Shell and other oil companies, but they have yet to come to a decision.

In the meantime, says managing director John Chambers: "We are concentrating on the independent operators. There are around 22,000 stations in the United Kingdom and getting on for a quarter of those are not directly owned by the oil good start."

Mr Chambers says that the petrol station operators already offering his Bonus Stamps—which are then exchanged for Bonusbonds—are reporting increases of between 20 and 25 p.c. in volume sales.

Don Marketing is also promoting the scheme to other independent retail businesses on a local basis and in the longer term is hoping to sign up a major retailer.

"I think inflation was a major factor in killing off trading stamps in the seventies," says Mr Chambers. "By the time people had collected three books they were told that the item they wanted cost four."

"I think this time the tide is running very strongly in our favour and 1985 will see trading stamps back in a big way."

Engineering  
orders slip

RECOVERY in the engineering industry slipped in the autumn with new orders in the third quarter down by 5.5 p.c. from the second quarter.

Department of Trade and Industry figures show a 4 p.c. drop in new home market orders between the quarters and a 2 p.c. fall in the export intake.

The deterioration largely reflects setbacks in the electrical engineering sector, where new orders dropped by 15 p.c. In the home market fresh orders were 15 p.c. down while new export business dropped 8 p.c.

In the mechanical engineering sector new orders rose 11.5 p.c. with home business rising by 12.5 p.c. and fresh export orders by 9.5 p.c. Overall the mechanical sector's orders on hand at the end of the third quarter were up by 3 p.c.

Other Government statistics show a marked recovery from a low base for machine tool companies in the export market. New export orders soared by 44.5 p.c. while home business tumbled.

Total new orders as a result were 10.5 p.c. higher and sales jumped by 25.5 p.c. because of a 34 p.c. rise in export deliveries and a 19.5 p.c. improvement in the home market.

Lewis reports  
record sales

SALES in John Lewis Partnership department store last week were a record £23 million, an increase of 15.7 p.c. over the corresponding week last year.

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## WOODCHESTER INVESTMENTS

Public Limited Company

## SHARE CAPITAL

| Authorised | Issued and Fully Paid |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 1,020,000  | 1,020,000             |
| 380,000    | 380,000               |
| 1,400,000  | 1,400,000             |
|            | 876,734               |

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the Ordinary shares of 10p each of Woodchester Investments Public Limited Company ("Woodchester"), formerly dealt in on the Unlisted Securities Market, to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that dealings will commence on 31st December, 1984. No application is being made for admission of the 'A' Ordinary shares of 10p each of Woodchester to the Official List.

Particulars relating to Woodchester are available through Exel Statistical Services Limited and may be obtained during the usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and Bank Holidays excepted) up to and including 18th January, 1985 from:

ALLIED IRISH INVESTMENT BANK LIMITED  
Bank Centre, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

J. &amp; E. DAVY

60/63 Dawson Street, Dublin 2

WOOD MACKENZIE & CO. LIMITED  
62/63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP



# Super Seven notches 34 pc gain

"THE Super Seven for 1984" was the name I gave the Questor portfolio of their new group and it has lived up to its title.

Of the seven shares selected, only one is lower today than it was last Christmas Eve. The best performer in the stable has more than doubled and the average gain of 34.1 pc. leaves the 21 pc. rise in the market as a whole well behind.

The star of the show has been Dee Corporation. When the shares were included in the portfolio they stood at 385p and I suggested that a reasonable target for the price would be 500p.

It did not take Dee more than a couple of months to reach that level, however, and during the summer each share was effectively divided into four shares. The shares in their new form closed at 127p on Friday—equivalent to 788p in the form in which they were recommended.

In the meantime, Dee shares have been as high as 215p, a handsome 120 pc. higher than the starting price. They will go higher yet.

A year ago, the British and Chinese Governments were about to get down to the "Eighth Round" of negotiations over the future of Hong Kong. Last week, a deal was signed and despite some misgivings in the colony itself, the financial situation there has stabilised.

This has been partially reflected in the share price performance on another Questor selection, Hongkong Land. The share was entered in the portfolio at 255p. It was obviously speculative, because if the talks with the Chinese had failed, or reached a stalemate, Hongkong Land shares would have been grounded.

In the event, they are 68.6 pc. ahead. The company's fortunes are sound, the management is first class and the potential still dramatically understated. These shares are not, currently, for selling.

Each New Year portfolio needs an old and trusted friend, and for 1984 I fell back on BTR, probably the country's best managed industrial conglomerate, and have not been disappointed.

BTR went in at 418p and closed on Friday at 585p, a gain of 41 pc. It has been the market advance. The BTR management has now fully digested Thomas Tilling and has earmarked the spring of 1985 as a suitable time to make the next big take-over.

Given the enduring beneficial effect that BTR's takeovers

## QUESTOR

David Brewerton

tend to have no earnings per share, 1985 looks like being another good year.

It should be a good year for Meggitt, too. I have to confess to being a bit ahead of the game in recommending Meggitt for 1984. The new management, Ken Coates and Nigel McCorkell, moved in from their old jobs in Flight Refuelling only in January, and it took a while to get things moving.

Adjusting for the two rights issues, the Meggitt starting price equates to 47p and Friday's close of 60p gives the share a 28.7 pc. gain over the year.

Meggitt's original machine tool business has been put into

profitable shape and a couple of acquisitions have given the group a way into energy engineering and specialised distribution.

The acquisition strategy has established Meggitt with a profit base of some £800,000 per annum for the current year and the capital raising activity lies mean that the company now has some £2.5 million cash available for further purchases, as well as a highly rated share. Stay put.

Crystalline Holdings finished the year on a dull note, although the shares were 16.5 pc. higher than at the start of 1984. The company's sale of the fine china and ceramics businesses of Royal Worcester, acquired late in 1983, went every bit as well as planned.

The electronics business that came with the Royal Worcester package, Welton Electronics, performed well up to expectations. But the original Crystalline businesses were caught in a squeeze imposed by British Telecom, and that affected the profits performance. From a high point of 235p the shares rattled all the way back to

235p with City sentiment somewhat shaken.

Last week was a rough one for Westland, when it had to disclose not only lower profits but also a heavy provision against its civil helicopter stocks. British Aerospace had to make a similar provision a couple of years ago.

Westland shares, included at 186p, closed the week at 152p, a 21 pc. fall on the year. At this level, the main support is the yield of nearly 10 pc., but

Westland will find few friends until orders for both civil and military aircraft quicken. Edinburgh Financial Trust changed its name during the year—when it entered into the portfolio it was called Yorkshire and Lancashire Investment Trust. The share price has remained steady and on Friday closed unchanged on the year.

The company is developing along the lines it promised, but has not so far captured the market's imagination.

## THE QUESTOR SUPER SEVEN

|                     | Price Dec. 24 1983 | Price Dec. 21 1984 | Change |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Dee Corporation     | 96.25              | 197                | +104.7 |
| Hong Kong Land      | 25.5               | 43                 | +68.6  |
| BTR                 | 418                | 585                | +40.0  |
| Meggitt             | 47                 | 60                 | +27.7  |
| Crystalline         | 200                | 236                | +18.0  |
| Edinburgh Financial | 45                 | 45                 | 0.0    |
| Westland            | 166                | 132                | -20.5  |
| Average             |                    |                    | +34.1  |
| Total Market        |                    |                    | +21.1  |

## BAT scores for the Professionals

HOWARD COATES, research partner at London brokers do Zoot & Bevan (right) receives his prize from The Daily Telegraph City Editor Andrew Whitlam Smith.

Mr. Coates entered BAT Industries in the "Pick of the Professionals" and between the starting date and the close of business on December 7, the shares rose 77.1 pc.

Since then the shares have gone up a further 40p to his gain to last Friday would have been a handy 94 pc. Following the

take-over of Hambro Life, BAT is likely to be further re-rated. In second place came Jonathan Timms, a partner in Liverpool based stockbrokers Timms & Co. He picked a local runner, Pilkington Brothers, which rose 43.2 pc. in the competition period.

Unfortunately, Pilkington could not resist the temptation to take advantage of its high flying share price, and made a rights issue. Overall, the shares selected by the market professionals rose by a modest 4.6 pc. but I should point out that they were in no way a "portfolio" more a random selection.

## PICK OF THE PROFESSIONALS

|                  | Dec. 31 1983 | Dec. 7 1984 | Change |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| BAT Industries   | 175          | 310         | +77.1  |
| Pilkington Bros. | 220          | 315         | +43.2  |
| Geers Gross      | 114          | 147         | +28.9  |
| GEC              | 180          | 228         | +26.7  |
| Distillers       | 244          | 307         | +25.8  |
| UEI              | 140          | 160         | +14.3  |
| Chloride         | 23           | 26          | +13.0  |
| LCP              | 82           | 92          | +12.2  |
| Aspinalls        | 138          | 114         | -17.4  |
| Ranger Oil       | 790          | 400         | -49.4  |
| Oceanics         | 265          | 130         | -50.9  |
| Audiotronic      | 20           | 7.5         | -62.5  |
| Average          |              |             | +5.1   |

## COMPUTERS

By Michael Beckett

## Programming by the book

ELECTRONICS has long been touted as replacement for paper, yet computers and programs still arrive with massive tomes of instruction. A further paradox of this information business is the mounting opacity of these manuals.

Such failures have produced a secondary industry publishing floods of books for bewildered users. Today is your final chance to get one of these as a last minute Christmas present to help a confused computer owner. Failing that, such guidance might be a consolation for Christmas book tokens—or just a useful New Year present to yourself.

One type of such book explains what computers do and how. You do not need to know this in work with one, just as ignorance of the Otto cycle stops nobody from driving a car. But some people have a desire for both sorts of knowledge.

A simple introduction from Colin Day and Donald Alcock is "Illustrating Computers" (Pan, £1.95, 163 pages), which starts from scratch and tells plain English. A more advanced and practical guide "Microman" by Charles Platt and David Lufford (Sphere, £1.75, 186 pages) makes useful specific advice for beginners learnable with hard-learned type and amateurish drawings, but is worth the effort.

At a more advanced level is "The Micro Maze" by Wynford James (Mifco Press, £5.95, 154 pages). If you want to start learning the way comparing is staid, there is an impressively lucid new book from Professor Donald Michie and Rory Johnston.

Called "The Creative Computer" (Viking, £12.95, 312 pages), it explains artificial intelligence and its future with clarity and humour, avoiding jargon and philosophy. It prompts the reader into ad-

mission, understanding and thought. Recommended.

Another category of books tries to help with the purchase. You would need to be a professional user to embark on something as extensive as "How to Buy Software" by Alfred Glasner (Macmillan, £9.95, 610 pages), especially as it tells you a lot more than most people would want to know at this stage—e.g. how to run a VisiCalc program.

A briefer and more practical guide is "The User's Guide to the Home Computer and Use of Software" (E.S. 95, 208 pages). Though one may occasionally get irritated at being talked down to, it has sensible specific advice.

Generally beware of books purporting to tell you what products to buy. By the time they are published, all the products of date in coverage, price and specifications. I have not seen one to recommend. For that you would be better to consult journals or the National Computing Centre.

For magazine tests in book form there is "Business Micro Benchmarks" edited by Peter Bright (Century, £7.95, 198 pages) which reproduces reports on 18 popular computers as they appeared in the magazine Personal Computer World.

Finally, there are guides to specific products. "Everyman's Database Primer" by Robert Byers (Ashton Tate, £5.95, 154 pages) is published by producer of Base II and shows how to use that popular but difficult program.

Do not be deterred that it insults your intelligence by starting with an explanation of what a telephone directory is—fully pedestrian and worthy though the book is later you may be grateful for being treated like a 10 year old.

Working with dBase II" by M. de Pace (Granada, £7.95, 172 pages), assumes familiarity with computers plus intelligence and application: it was written for adults and if you follow it carefully, it will take you through comprehensively. But do not be tempted to skip even a single sentence in this book because in its narrow compass it goes further than the previous one, and by the end you can create not just databases but quite complex programs to link with other software.

## STOCK MARKETS OVERSEAS

By Clifford German

## Hongkong pastures new

THE FORMAL signing of the agreement returning Hongkong to China in 1997 coincided with a fresh surge of confidence which sent the Hang Seng index to a new peak for the year last week. Since July when uncertainty over the colony's future was at its height, the index has risen by 60 pc. Once the outlines of the agreement were known overseas investors began investing again in Hongkong stocks, and especially in the better-known names such as Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank.

In the past two weeks however local investors have also begun putting their money back into the stock market, a move which will favour the smaller and local companies.

The market still bears some of the scars caused by the recession and high interest rates which have soured property companies since 1981, and by the flight of confidence triggered by Jardine Matheson's decision to shift its head office to Bermuda.

The local banks such as Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank and Asia have not yet fully recovered, and the property sector is still held back by further write-offs expected in the 1984 accounts.

But Hong Kong Land's market capitalisation, covered by its assets in hotels, food manufacturing and its stake in Hong Kong Electric.

Assuming there is no sudden loss of confidence which might panic local investors, the prospects for the next six to 12 months look good.

The economy grew by about 8 pc. this year and is expected to expand by another 6 pc. in 1985. The policy of pegging the currency to the United States dollar has helped control inflation, and prime rates have come down from the crisis level of 17 pc. to 11 pc. over the weekend. Real earnings are expected to rise by up to 5 pc. in the coming year.

The best indicator of returning business confidence was the Timahatui land auction last month which fetched twice the price of a similar sale in the summer. Bids for a 24 hectare site on Canton Road closed on Friday and estimates have been revised up from 250 million to 500 million Hongkong dollars in the HK\$200 million to HK\$250 million range, with Huzong & Kowloon Wharf or a similar based contender as the likely winner for a contest which includes the commitment of the Hongkong business Hotchison Whampoa has also just announced a new residential property development near Kai Tak Airport which indicates the strength of returning confidence in the colony's future.

The prospects for the manufacturing sector depend to a certain extent on continued access to traditional markets especially in the United States, and the Hongkong business community is monitoring protectionist lobbies in Washington very closely.

But they are very optimistic about the prospects opening up in China itself. Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering, a quoted subsidiary of the Swire Group has a contract to refurbish

aircraft for China Airlines alongside British Airways' jumbos, and Hong Kong Telephones, a quoted subsidiary of Cable & Wireless, is busy updating telephone systems in China.

Hongkong's trade with China has been growing at an annual rate of 60 pc. a year or more, but the prospects in such a massive hinterland are enormous.

Although the Japanese and South Koreans are likely to compete fiercely for construction contracts, Hongkong has priceless advantages in providing banking and financial services.

The Americans and the Japanese are also expected to use Hongkong as a base for entering the China market.

Although the stock market has recovered so strongly in the past few months, Hongkong shares are still remarkably cheap relative to, say, Japan. Average price earnings ratios for the market as a whole are still just in single figures.

Savory Mills likes the look of China Light & Power on about 12 times historic earnings, Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank on about nine times, and Hotchison Whampoa on seven times.

Western Securities, an associate of the Wing On Group, notes Swire Pacific on about eight times 1984 earnings and Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf on about 16 times.

Prospective earnings should show average increases of 10 to 15 pc. over the coming year according to de Zoete & Bevan's team of analysts.

# SDP policy battle is about fundamentals

## ECONOMIC COMMENTARY



By Matthew Symonds

IT SOMETIMES feels as if the nearest we get to an economic debate in this country is Tory backbenchers' roaring their demands for new powers and the Chancellor sneering back at them.

Anyone of a fastidious disposition, or who fears that they will get their fill of pantomime over Christmas, might wish to take note of the less public but very much more interesting policy debate which is taking shape within the SDP. It is important for two reasons.

In the first place it will determine whether the SDP is a conservative party with reformist edges or a genuinely radical political force. Secondly, because the SDP is to an extraordinary degree the economists' party, and because it is relatively free from the intellectually corrupting influence of special interest groups, the debate is about fundamentals which go to the very heart of our present dilemmas.

As usual, it is simplistic to talk in terms of two camps with completely opposing views, but it is not an exaggeration to say that the SDP is divided. Ranged on one side are the people who made most of the running when the party was formed—mainly refugees from the Labour party and long-time political associates of Roy Jenkins.

They essentially believe that Thatcherism represents an exaggerated and aberrational response to the accidents and excesses of the 1970s. They think that the aim of policy should be to try to recreate the conditions of the 1950s and 1960s, and with the benefit of hindsight improve upon them. To say that they are the proponents of "better yesterday" sounds cheap, but it is not far from the truth.

On the other side are the radicals, including David Owen. A great many of them have only become involved in politics since the SDP was established, but they also number people like Dr Owen who have experienced an intellectual liberation since leaving the Labour party.

Their most distinctive contribution is their realisation that it should be possible, some would argue essential, to synthesise centre-left social objectives with free market economics.

The radicals also take a different and much less sanguine view about the recent past than the SDP conservatives. They do not see the 1970s as a curious disconnected decade when things went wrong for no particular reason. Instead they see that disastrous period as a direct consequence of the increasingly undisciplined demand management policies practised by successive Governments.

Instinctively, they would tend to agree with the proposition which Peter Jay first articulated 11 years ago, that there is an inherent incompatibility between full employment collective bargaining by monopoly trade unions and non-inflationary inflation.

In other words, any attempt by Government to expand demand by a sufficient amount to bring about a rapid fall in unemployment will result in rapidly increasing inflation because of institutional rigidities in the labour market.

Unlike their SDP colleagues, they are far from convinced that any conceivable incomes policy—even one as flexible and decentralised as Richard Laver's "inflation tax"—would square the circle for more than a year.

With their espousal of radical economics, the scepticism about incomes policy and conviction that any significant increase in demand would be damnable in the absence of a reformed labour market, it is easy to understand why Dr

It would be misleading to suggest that detailed policies are emerging, but the essence of an approach is visible. The first part of it comes straight from the Institute of Economic Affairs' wish list of micro-measures to free up the labour market—a renewed assault on union monopoly power, the reform of wages councils and so-called employment protection legislation. That is, as it were, the low road to supply improvements.

The high road involves a substantial shift in the ownership of capital and productive property towards ordinary workers as a compensation for the union power and the lower real wages which would be the intentional result. The principle behind this approach is that unemployment rates will not do what they will until pay adjusts to market clearing levels.

However, for some workers, especially at a time of rapid technical advance, wages may be unacceptably low. The answer is that they should also have a share in the rewards of capital. If workers received income from capital ownership as well as from wages, they would stand to gain on the unimpaired of economic change which they lost on the swings.

How such a revolution in capital ownership might be achieved is, of course, a practical question which cannot be shelved. Samuel Brittan has made a number of suggestions including public unit trusts whose shares would be distributed to all citizens, but he would be the first to admit that there was an urgent requirement for others to come up with more detailed proposals.

The only question is whether the SDP really is as radical as it likes to think itself. The "better yesterday" conservative will have to be dragged kicking and screaming into the late 1980s.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for or purchase any Preference Shares.

## SIMON ENGINEERING plc

Issued 100,000 40 per cent.  
Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each 1984/96  
850,000 6.35 per cent.  
Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each 1991/96  
700,000 5.4 per cent.  
Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each and  
1,483,312 7.75 per cent.  
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Particulars relating to each class of Preference Shares are available in the Statistical Service of Exel Statistical Services Limited and copies of such particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 31st January, 1985 from:

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited, 100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AJ  
Rowe & Emsan, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2A 3PA  
23rd December, 1984.

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## HARTONS GROUP Plc

(Registered in England No. 131966)

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| Authorised                 | £2,400,000 | £2,400,000            |
| Ordinary shares of 5p each |            |                       |

Applying has been made in the Council of The Stock Exchange for the Ordinary Shares of Hartons Group Plc, presently dealt in on the Unlisted Securities Market, to be admitted to the Official List. Dealings are expected to commence on 31st December 1984.

Hartons Group Plc is a holding company with interests in the distribution of plastics, the manufacture of car window products and the manufacture of P.V.C. floor and spring assemblies.

Particulars relating to Hartons Group Plc are available in the Exel Statistical Services and copies of such particulars are available during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 18th January 1985 from:

Barclays Merchant Bank Limited, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF  
Foster & Heathcote, 22 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF  
EC4N 3DF

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The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted to the Official List all the 78,028,660 shares of common stock of The Dun & Bradstreet Corporation issued and reserved for issue.

Particulars relating to The Dun & Bradstreet Corporation are available in the Exel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 7th January, 1985 from:

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24th December, 1984

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33% PA CAPITAL GROWTH WITH TAX FREE INCOME. This is a unique opportunity to invest in a highly profitable and growing business. The investment is made through a special arrangement with a leading financial institution. The investment is made through a special arrangement with a leading financial institution. The investment is made through a special arrangement with a leading financial institution.



# Sport... ON 6 PAGES

## TITLE TROPHY HOVERS OVER TOTTENHAM

By MICHAEL CALVIN

THE significance that Christmas, the first landmark of a demanding domestic season, arrives with Tottenham at the head of the First Division has not been ignored. Suddenly the murmurs of admiration for the multi-talented squad managed by Peter Shreeves are developing into a chorus of praise.

Watford's Graham Taylor and Norwich's Ken Brown, managers whose clubs lack the resources to compete in the super league which is evolving naturally among the big city clubs,

chase the weekend to voice their belief that Spurs will win their first league title in 24 years.

Football's scout regard for logic makes prediction a hazardous pastime but the evidence so far this season suggests their conclusions are sound.

Liverpool have established the tradition that the team in command after the Christmas programme is difficult to catch before the marathon of a championship challenge is completed in May.

The venerable football figures who gather in the Anfield boardroom to discuss the season have been convinced, stress that talent alone is not enough at the highest level.

Players' high salaries, their natural gifts, deserve, must be prepared to accept the ruthless principles of a squad's weaknesses.

Tottenham have that sense of purpose, already established as an effective unit in the sudden death combat of Cup football, they are driven by the prospect of winning the prize which all professionals covet.

Experienced players like Ray Clemence and Steve Perryman have established a mood of determination which was illustrated when asked to outline their ambitions for 1985 in a seasonal questionnaire.

Spurs' players answered simply: "To win the League."

Mr Shreeves admits: "Though we would like to maintain our level of success in Cup football, winning the championship is what myself and the players would really love to do above all else. It is the ultimate aim."

Don Howe, the Arsenal manager, believes the champions will not be revealed until the final Saturday of the season. But his opponent, Steve Williams, is more realistic.

He said: "I have seen Tottenham's defensive cover is limited and for all the highly publicised problems of Charlie Nicholas, the most damaging factor at Highbury is that a player of his quality is not playing with less than his usual enthusiasm."

Ron Atkinson is sceptical to any suggestion that the title will be won by a team of underdogs. He says: "I have seen Tottenham's defensive cover is limited and for all the highly publicised problems of Charlie Nicholas, the most damaging factor at Highbury is that a player of his quality is not playing with less than his usual enthusiasm."

Yet at one stage it seemed as if the London side would come out of its existing slump empty-handed. Woodcock's potential, playing with less than his usual enthusiasm.

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Gordon Davies beats an Everton defender to score the first goal of his hat-trick in the surprise defeat that took Everton off the top of the First Division.

### World Cup Soccer

## Belgians are given shock

By DONALD SAUNDERS

PORTSMOUTH...2, Oxford United...1

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## Late reprieve lifts Portsmouth

By DONALD SAUNDERS

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## Smash-and-grab by cheeky Chelsea

By WILLIAM JOHNSON

Everton...3 Chelsea...4

CHelsea spent 90 per cent of this extraordinary match soaking up intense Everton pressure. Whenever possible they launched sweeping counter-

attacks, capitalised on seasonal generosity in the Everton defence and scored four splendid goals.

That superb demonstration of finishing skills, especially by hat-trick hero Gordon Davies, was just enough to secure their first away victory since returning to Division One.

It averaged a rare home defeat suffered at the end of August, and also ended Everton's six-week unbeaten League leaders.

Mistakes by Bailey and Reid allowed Davies to pot his team ahead twice in the first half, though it must not be overlooked that the recent's going from Fulham accepted his ninth and 40th-minute chances expertly.

Elusive running by the exciting Nevill set up Chelsea's six-minute third, driven in from close range by Pates and Nevill also set up a brilliant match-winning goal for a Davies.

Unlucky Biley or Santa Claus came to their aid, Portsmouth seemed destined to lose a match they had dominated for the first 45 minutes.

Having failed to make the most of chances created by the purposeful midfield football of Hilary and Webb, they switched to the interval.

With Hebbard, Treweek, and Aldridge taking control in midfield, Oxford at last let us see why they have made such a success of their promotion to the First Division.

When Brock put Oxford in front, few doubted that three more points would be in the bag. But at such moments, Portsmouth, who have fallen behind in seven of their last eight games, are at their most dangerous.

"We forgot that their game is to let you get in front—then beat you," emphasised Mr Smith, still, Oxford's manager was not unduly perturbed by this setback.

It is encouraging to know we have played one of the top teams in the division and have learned that we really have nothing to fear from them," Mr Smith commented.

Portsmouth's manager, Stanley, told: "We were very disappointed, but we must not let this defeat affect our morale. We will be back in the top six next week."

Oxford United, however, were not unduly perturbed by this setback. It is encouraging to know we have played one of the top teams in the division and have learned that we really have nothing to fear from them," Mr Smith commented.

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## COULD IN DOUBLE TROUBLE

By A Special Correspondent

Leicester City...5 Coventry City...1

COVENTRY CITY manager Bobby Gould was lectured by a police inspector for running on to the pitch during his side's controversial Christmas thrashing at Filbert Street yesterday.

Gould was incensed by a harsh 21st-minute penalty award that enabled Leicester to draw level and turn a crucial relegation fixture in their favour.

Coventry were deservedly in front after dominating the opening 10 minutes, with the lively Gynn deceiving two defenders before sliding a low 15-yard shot beneath Andrews.

Leicester's young goalkeeper kept his side in the game with brave saves at the last moment and Regis, before Leicester levelled against the run of play when Bowman's famous tackle on Banks was adjudged illegal by referee Colin Dowling.

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# BLAND BATTLES TO CLASSIC WIN IN LATE BURST

By ADRIAN FREDERICK in Johannesburg  
EUROPEAN tour regular John Bland birdied the last four holes of regulation play and then the first of a sudden death play-off against Nicky Price to win the £50,000 Goodyear Classic at Humewood on Saturday.

In a dramatic blanket finish which saw five players in with a chance to win, Bland came from four behind with six to play to catch Price who had looked to have the tournament wrapped up midway through the back nine.

Price, runner-up in the Open championship at Royal Troon two years ago, dropped shots on 13 and 14 and though he birdied the long 15th and 17th he could only tie the fast finishing Bland.

At the first extra hole Bland knocked in a 10ft birdie putt. Price then missed from half that distance to give Bland victory. It was the tenth time in the last five years that Price had finished runner-up in a local tournament.

Brighton's Chris Moody, who started the last round only one stroke behind leader Harold Henning after a record equalling third round of 64, had a nightmare over the front nine which he played in six over 41.

His problems started when he three-putted the first green and then had an unlucky bounce with his chip to the second to drop another shot.

On the fourth he missed from three feet, on the fifth he three-putted and he missed the green on the short sixth to drop completely out of the picture.

**Home recovery**

To his credit he pulled his game together on the back nine which he completed in three under 34. His closing 15 gave him a total of 285, good enough for a share of seventh place and a cheque for £1,100.

Warren Humphreys, who was also handily placed going into the last round, never got going and matched Moody's 75 to finish a stroke behind him. Humphreys birdied two of the last three holes to earn himself a cheque of £850.

Dennis Watson also birdied the last four holes in a row to finish just one stroke behind Bland and



John Bland... followed up last year's win in the Benson and Hedges International at Fulford with his ninth Sunshine Circuit victory at the Goodyear Classic.

Price on 278. On the same mark was young Wayne Westwood who birdied four of the last five for his best showing since winning the I.C.L. International in 1963.

Hugh Balochi also had a run at victory that missed crucial birdie points on 18 and 19 to finish two strokes behind.

377-1. Bland, 68, 69, 72, 69, 278. 2. Price, 70, 69, 69, 69, 277. 3. Humphreys, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 4. Moody, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 5. Watson, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 6. Balochi, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 7. Westwood, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 8. Henning, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 9. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 10. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 11. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 12. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 13. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 14. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 15. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 16. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 17. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 18. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 19. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 20. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 21. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 22. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 23. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 24. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 25. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 26. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 27. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 28. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 29. Price, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 30. Bland, 71, 68, 71, 69, 280. 31. 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